



## A House of Living Stones

### Week of February 7 , 2021

#### Intro Discussion Questions:

- *Optional -- If you read the Bible Reading Plan from last week, did any verses stand out to you that you would like to share?*
- *What is the most impressive building you have ever seen? Why?*
- *What is the most rewarding thing you have ever built or been a part of building? Why?*

#### Read Bible Study Summary:

The New Testament does not teach that Christians “go to church.” Sure, we gather as the church for worship, but Scripture teaches us that Christians “are the church.” Jesus loves his church and builds us up to accomplish his purpose in the world. In the Apostle Peter’s first letter, we gain insight on the building principles which apply to the spiritual house of living stones God is building as his church. These principles are gleaned from the text in order to encourage us to be built into a strong living house as his faith family.

#### Read Main Scripture

- **Read 1 Peter 2:1-12**

#### Principles for Building A House of Living Stones

##### **1. Site Preparation and Proper Building Materials are a Must (1 Peter 2:1-3)**

- *God's building a new kind of temple, and He's doing it through His family, the church. And there are some things God doesn't want in His new home. When you are building a house it is critical you get this right!*
- *Prepare and Use Proper Building Materials - Sins of the spirit like malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander, immorality, impurity, anger, slander, lying and the like are like tainted drywall to the spiritual house God is building. He doesn't want these things to harm His precious family so He tells us to rip those things out of our lives.*
- *This new temple God is building is not brick and mortar, it is alive. Therefore it must be fed. We should be hungry and crave the spiritual food God has for us. Peter tells us to crave the "Pure" spiritual milk. If you accept Christ as your Savior but you do not grow in your relationship with Him, you will gain heaven, but your life here will continue to be a mess!*

- **Read Hebrews 5:13-14** - Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.
- **Ask Question** - *Why do you think many believers struggle to mature in the faith? In what area(s) of your spiritual life do you desire more maturity?*

## 2. The Foundation (Cornerstone) is Critical

- “In relation to architecture, a cornerstone is traditionally the first stone laid for a structure, with all other stones laid in reference. A cornerstone marks the geographical location by orienting a building in a specific direction.”
- Jesus is our cornerstone, our capstone, our living stone who is our reference for right living, the stone which orients us in the right direction or the way we should go.
  - **Read Matthew 21:42-43** - *Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “ ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone ; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’ ? “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.*
- Jesus said this to the religious leaders when they questioned His authority to teach in the temple courts. The Kingdom of God will be given to those who believe in Christ Jesus and decide to build their faith on him as the cornerstone. Christians will bear the fruit that comes from living lives based on His teachings!
  - **Ask Question** - *What do you think your life would look like now if Jesus were not the cornerstone of it? What would the church be if Jesus were not it's cornerstone?*

## 3. The House is Built with a Clear Purpose in Mind (1 Peter 2:5)

- Who builds a house without a purpose? Certainly not God! God has a purpose for the Body of Christ and for you and me as a part of the Body of Christ. Our purpose is to be a Holy Priesthood. This means that we no longer have to go through a man to get to God. We have been made priests to serve our God. Every believer who has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior has the privilege of speaking directly to God and has been called to serve God.
- All Christians are part of the holy, or royal priesthood, which means 1) There is no such thing as a part-time Christian, and 2) Every believer has a ministry.
  - **Read Ephesians 2:10** *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
  - **Ask Questions** -
    - *Have you ever gone through seasons in your life in which you lived like a part-time Christian? Explain.*
    - *Since you are a holy priesthood, in what ways has Jesus called you, or is calling you to serve him?*

## Closing In Prayer

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?*
- Pray together over those requests.