

## A People Built by Mercy – Part 2

1 Peter 2:4-10 - NCBC, May 13, 2018

Main Point: **Believers are blessed to be united with Jesus.**

- **Sharing His Distinction** (4)
  - Rejected by Men
  - Chosen by God
- **Sharing His Life** (5-6)
  - For growing communion
  - For growing worship
- **Sharing His Honor** (6-8)
  - Rejection grows shame, stumbling, and offense
  - Faith grows honor, obedience, and praise
- **Sharing His Mercy** (9-10)
  - Given a new identity
  - Given a new purpose

Application: **Don't lose heart – remember you are God's people!**

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### Opening Announcements:

- Happy Mother's Day!
- Youth Summer Camp Fund Raiser @ Morton Culver's, Weds May 16<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm

<<Our Song from Age to Age>>



We sing together to proclaim the excellencies of our God who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light!

Please open your Bible to **1 Peter chapter 2**, as we continue our worship by continuing our study of **verses 4-10** that we began last week.



If you don't have a Bible with you, simply raise your hand and we'd be delighted to give you one. You are welcome to take this Bible home as our gift to you, or just return it after our service by placing it on the table in the back of

the room. **1 Peter chapter 2** is on page 1204 in the giveaway Bibles today.

I would also like to express my gratitude for the godly women among us who sacrifice their personal energy every day to teach children about God's forgiveness and glory! Being a mother is a God-given miraculous privilege. It is appropriate to thank those moms among us this morning who demonstrate faith by praying regularly for their children. Moms who model biblical submission and purity for their children, who are quick to humble themselves and repent of their own sins in front of their own children, are rare treasures, fully deserving of praise from their husbands and children,<sup>1</sup> and pastors!

So thank you, New Castle Moms! We pray for you, and we praise God for you. Though none of us are perfect, God looks good on you! And we are very thankful for you!

Older women – please continue training our young New Castle moms “to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, diligent at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands,”<sup>2</sup> that the word of God may not be reviled. Our young moms benefit so much from your ministry to them...so thank you for all your faithful efforts in these regards.

Barren or bereaved wombs can experience extra pain today. Mother's Day is difficult for modern-day “Hannahs”<sup>3</sup> and “Naomis.”<sup>4</sup> Mother's Day also reminds us of our Moms and Grandmas who are no longer with us. So let's turn our focus now on God's merciful building program found in **1 Peter 2**.

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<sup>1</sup> Proverbs 31:28

<sup>2</sup> Titus 2:3-5



Every Christian is actively part of God's building program...for **verses 4-10** teach us that God is building His church – all by His mercy – for His joyful communion and our acceptable worship!

Please stand in honor of the reading of God's Word as I read from **1 Peter chapter 2**. I'm reading from the **English Standard Translation**, starting in **verse 4**.

*<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture:*

*“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”*

<sup>3</sup> Those who are barren or unable to have children; 1 Samuel 1:6,10

<sup>4</sup> Those whose children have died; Ruth 1:5

*<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,*

*“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”*

*<sup>8</sup> and*

*“A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”*

*They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*

*<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

So speaks our saving God to His church today. You may be seated.

**Let’s Pray.**

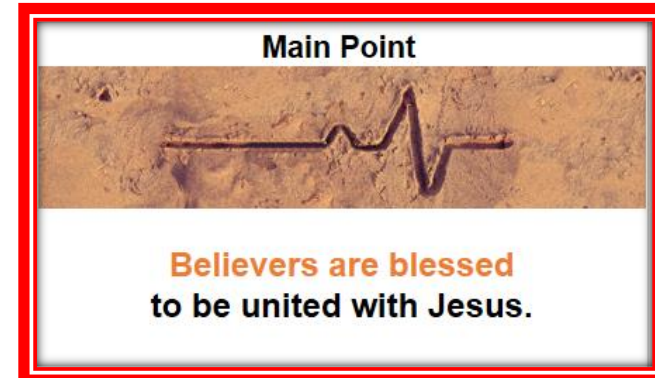
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God is building His church on the foundation of the finished work of Jesus Christ!<sup>5</sup>

In **verses 4-5** Peter encourages suffering saints that God is building them up together as living stones into His own dwelling place. God’s mercy has made every one of them holy priests, so they can offer acceptable worship to God through Jesus Christ!

Believer in Jesus – do you think of yourself as one of God’s priests? Update your resume this morning! You’re part of God’s building program! Since believing on Jesus connects you to His very nature, you share in His distinction, and you share in His life!

Let this good news soak in this morning.



**Believers are blessed to be united with Jesus.**

This is the main point of **verses 4-10** that we started studying last week. Peter calls persecuted and troubled hearts to remember the benefits and privileges they possess when Christ is their life!<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Matthew 16:18  
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<sup>6</sup> Colossians 3:3-4

In **verses 6 and 8** Peter reinforces your blessed condition by quoting from **Isaiah**<sup>7</sup> – and in **verse 7** he quotes from **Psalms 118**<sup>8</sup> – clearly affirming his belief that the Old Testament was inspired Scripture from God.

*It stands in Scripture*, Peter starts off in **verse 6**. He's preaching God's Word to suffering saints! Because when life gets hard, our greatest need is to hear from God's Word, right? Elect exiles<sup>9</sup> don't benefit from the fickle fads of worldly fables. No – God's people need God's good promises to silence deafening pain, and give them life,<sup>10</sup> and strength,<sup>11</sup> and hope!<sup>12</sup>

So Peter encourages troubled hearts with God's truth that God Himself is building His church on the foundation of the finished work of Jesus Christ!

In **verse 6** he quotes **Isaiah 28, verse 16**:

*Behold – look at this! – God is laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.*

Mt. Zion, or Jerusalem, represents the New Covenant promises of God's salvation,<sup>13</sup> where God laid down Jesus Christ as a living stone who although he was rejected by men, in the sight of God He was chosen and

precious.<sup>14</sup> God sovereignly elected His Son Jesus to be the head, or the cornerstone of His church.<sup>15</sup>



Now a cornerstone was the chief or most important foundation stone in ancient construction. The builders would carefully examine possible foundation stones, until they would affectionately choose the perfect stone – with the perfect angles and the perfect shape, flawlessly suited for their building.

You see, the cornerstone was laid down with great purpose and intentionality – since it served as the foundational guide and plumb line for all the remaining construction. The horizontal angles for the entire building were set by the standard of the cornerstone. The vertical angles – making sure the walls didn't lean too far in or out – required alignment with this cornerstone. This

<sup>7</sup> 1 Peter 2:6 is a quote from Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:8 quotes Isaiah 8:14

<sup>8</sup> Psalm 118:22

<sup>9</sup> 1 Peter 1:1

<sup>10</sup> Psalm 119:25, 50, 77, 88, 107, 116, 156, 159, 175, etc.

<sup>11</sup> Psalm 119:28, 92, 133, 153, 157, 165, etc.

<sup>12</sup> Psalm 119:43, 49, 81, 116, 147, 166, etc.

<sup>13</sup> Galatians 4:24-26 compares Mt. Sinai (the Mosaic covenant of the law) to Mt. Zion (the New Covenant of promise); c.f. Hebrews 12:22-24;

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Zion.html>

<sup>14</sup> 1 Peter 2:4

<sup>15</sup> Ephesians 2:18-22; 4:11-16

cornerstone was the authoritative and foundational standard for the entire structure's building!

So Peter's point here is clear!



**Jesus is God's chosen and precious cornerstone, upon which the entire church is being built!** The death and resurrection of Jesus testifies boldly today that Jesus is a living stone – a secure foundation who gives living hope to all who rest their faith on Him.<sup>16</sup> *Salvation exists in no one else. There is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*<sup>17</sup>

Don't believe popular lies. Salvation isn't accomplished by social or economic or educational advancement. Eternal life<sup>18</sup> and peace with God<sup>19</sup> cannot be produced

through any human decision,<sup>20</sup> or any religious effort.<sup>21</sup> All human righteousness is immediately corrupted and poisoned by the indwelling sin of our own heart.<sup>22</sup>

So here's the good news for sinners like you and me: For the sake of His glory,<sup>23</sup> God only builds His church with the mortar of mercy!<sup>24</sup> The Divine blueprints for God's building are grounded in His initiative of sovereign grace towards undeserving and incapable sinners.<sup>25</sup>

God mercifully builds His people through His living and abiding Word<sup>26</sup> and the Spirit of the living God.<sup>27</sup> All for the praise of God's glorious grace!<sup>28</sup>

So whoever believes in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the salvation of their sins grows up *into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ!*<sup>29</sup>

The foundational standard and authority for God's Church is the sinless life and powerful substitutionary rescue of Jesus. Everything in God's Temple derives its life, and energy, and hope from His perfect person and finished work!

So do you believe in Jesus this morning? Not just with a mere agreement of fact. Remember, the demons believe in God.<sup>30</sup> But they are not saved.

<sup>16</sup> 1 Peter 1:3

<sup>17</sup> Acts 4:12

<sup>18</sup> John 3:16; Romans 6:6, 23

<sup>19</sup> Romans 5:1

<sup>20</sup> John 1:12-13

<sup>21</sup> John 6:63; Galatians 4:9, 5:2-12; Colossians 2:20-23

<sup>22</sup> Isaiah 64:6-7; Romans 3:10-18; cf. Philippians 3:9

<sup>23</sup> Exodus 9:16, 34:9; Psalm 25:11, 79:9, 109:21; Isaiah 43:25, 48:9-11

<sup>24</sup> Romans 9:14-18; Titus 3:5; c.f. Matthew 20:15-16

<sup>25</sup> Ephesians 1:4-14; c.f. John 6:37, 44, 65

<sup>26</sup> 1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18; Romans 10:17; John 17:17

<sup>27</sup> 2 Corinthians 3:3; John 3:5-8, 6:63; Galatians 4:6; Titus 3:4-7

<sup>28</sup> Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14

<sup>29</sup> Ephesians 4:13c

<sup>30</sup> James 2:19; <https://www.gotquestions.org/even-the-demons-believe.html>



Do you really believe in Jesus' death and resurrection for your relationship with God? Are you resting your eternal hope in something outside of you – done entirely for you – even while you didn't deserve it?<sup>31</sup>

Is there evidence of the Spirit of the living Christ stirring up within you a growing hunger for the pure spiritual milk of God's Gospel promises?<sup>32</sup> Is the Spirit of Christ progressively bearing a supernatural fruit of His love in your life?<sup>33</sup> O what a blessing to be united with Jesus by faith!!

You must be honest with your own soul this morning: Have you cast yourself entirely on God by faith alone in Christ alone... or are you half-heartedly seeking to hang on to Christ while clinging tightly to lies in your own hand?<sup>34</sup>

Peter wants you to know based on the authority of God's Word at the end of **verse 6**,

*Whoever believes in Jesus will not be put to shame.*

Now the objector shouts out, "Aha! That can't be true! After all, I'm a Christ-follower who believes in Jesus – but ever since I've come to believe in Christ my life has been full of shame, and persecution, and injustice! How can Peter really say there's no shame for believers when he knows the fiery trials that believers are experiencing under Nero's wicked extortion?"

Dear friend – Peter knows well who he is writing to, and the profound severity of their present distress. But **Isaiah 28:16** doesn't contradict the words of Jesus Himself who taught that the world will hate and reject all who love and believe in Him.<sup>35</sup> Peter's not saying something different here than Paul who promises persecution to all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus.<sup>36</sup>

The word for *shame* here refers to being deceived in some hope. Getting to the end and realizing that you were duped, and you had only believed a lie.

Peter encourages us, saying, "Whoever believes on Jesus will never ever regret his faith in Christ from the perspective of eternity!"

In other words, one of the amazing benefits of being united with Christ is not just sharing His distinction and sharing His life, but also,



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<sup>31</sup> Romans 5:8

<sup>32</sup> 1 Peter 2:1-4; Matthew 5:6

<sup>33</sup> Galatians 5:22-24

<sup>34</sup> Isaiah 44:20

<sup>35</sup> John 15:18-16:4

<sup>36</sup> 2 Timothy 3:12

**Sharing His Honor (6-8)** Or as some translations put it, *This precious value, then, is for you who believe...*<sup>37</sup>

Take courage through the telescope of an eternal perspective! Church – while you are battered and bruised in the present – draw strength from the outcome of your faith which will result in praise, and glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ!<sup>38</sup>

In **Verse 7** Peter reminds troubled hearts that *the [eternal] honor* or great spiritual joy and delight that so precious and treasured for all of eternity, *is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*

These verses present a powerful contrast between those who believe in Jesus ...and those who do not believe.

**Blessed Christ-Union** True **Grace**  
Firm **Hope**

**Sharing His Honor** (6-8)

- Rejection grows **shame, stumbling, and offense**
- Faith grows **honor, obedience, and praise**

Those who do not believe in Jesus reject Him – just like the Jewish leaders who rejected God’s only Son as their long-awaited Messiah.<sup>39</sup> This rejection of unbelief only **grows shame, stumbling, and offense**. However, those who believe in Jesus are being built up by God as a spiritual house growing **honor, obedience, and praise**.

You see, from an eternal perspective, who’s going to have dashed hopes when Jesus returns?

Those who lived their entire life pursuing the most personal comfort and ease – living for the praise of people, the riches of this world, and avoiding anything that would bring the world’s contempt on their name here and now!<sup>40</sup>

After all, you can’t obey two functional gods.<sup>41</sup> So all who seek to save their life here and now will only experience the shame of eternal disappointment when this life is over.<sup>42</sup>

Instead of being built up in Christ by faith in Him, their rejection of Jesus turns the cornerstone into a stumbling-stone. Something that continues to trip them up – even while they’re busy going about their own attempts to establish their own righteousness apart from Christ.<sup>43</sup>

It’s like the largest decentralized memorial in the world today called,

<sup>37</sup> NASB

<sup>38</sup> 1 Peter 1:7

<sup>39</sup> Matthew 12:24

<sup>40</sup> Luke 12:20

<sup>41</sup> Matthew 6:24

<sup>42</sup> Luke 9:23-26

<sup>43</sup> Romans 10:3



*Stolperstein.* (stoll-perse-tein)

Stolperstein is the German word for Stumbling-block. The memorial currently expands across 22 European countries and consists of over 67,000 cobblestone-sized brass plates mostly bearing the names and life dates of Jewish victims of the Holocaust.<sup>44</sup>

Each *stolperstein* is laid right into the pavement or sidewalk immediately in front of the memorialized victim's last known place of residence. As passer-byers accidentally stumble upon the *stolperstein*, they are provoked to remember the life that was given.

And that's the image Peter is conveying with this phrase, "stone of stumbling" in **verse 8**. Even after you reject Jesus, He has a persistent way of popping up in your life. You stumble over the unexpected love or undeserved forgiveness of other Christians towards you. You stumble over the new-found joy of one of your dear friends who recently got saved and was baptized. It's almost like you keep tripping over the very stone that you said wasn't good enough for you, all while you're

<sup>44</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stolperstein>

searching the rock pile to find the best cornerstone upon which to build your own life!

The end of **verse 8** unpacks this stumbling a bit more, saying *They keep stumbling because they keep disobeying the word, as they were predestined or appointed to do.*

*Blessed Christ-Union*

**Sharing His Honor** (6-8)

**True Grace**

**Firm Hope**

- Rejection grows **shame, stumbling, and offense**
- Faith grows **honor, obedience, and praise**

So again the contrast is clear. Those who reject Christ will be eternally disappointed. Their lives will be full of willful disobedience.

And lest troubled hearts begin to think that wicked unbelievers are getting away with their disobedience, Peter reminds the suffering saints that God isn't surprised. His plan is being accomplished even through the sinful choices of unbelievers.<sup>45</sup> Unbelievers are just doing what all unbelievers choose to do apart from God's

<sup>45</sup> I.e. Genesis 50:20; Acts 2:23, 4:27-28



intervening grace.<sup>46</sup> So leave room for the final wrath of God.<sup>47</sup> Justice will be accomplished in the end.

The phrase, *rock of offense* points back to Jesus' own words in **Luke 20**, when he quoted **Psalm 118:22** and then said,

*Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.*<sup>48</sup>

In other words, saving faith in Jesus the cornerstone will break all your self-reliance and independence to pieces. To believe on Jesus requires a humble and contrite spirit.

But for those who reject the cornerstone of Jesus Christ, Jesus Himself will finally judge them, and condemn them under the weight of His holy glory.

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<sup>46</sup> Please see the recommended resources to learn why this verse and Jude 4, 2 Peter 2:3, and Romans 9:22ff do not teach a *symmetrical* version of “double predestination.” In fact, God’s predestination is *asymmetrical* in Scripture. His predestination for salvation is positive – meaning God positively initiates election, calling, regeneration, faith, repentance, etc. to bring us into an adopted relationship of saving faith in Christ. However God’s predestination for damnation, as clearly mentioned in this verse, is negative – meaning God refrains from gracious intervention, or passes over unbelievers who are willfully content to continue their sin. So God doesn’t positively add fresh evil to believers (symmetrical predestination), but He leaves vessels of wrath prepared for destruction to their own sinful devices, and thereby preserves His own holiness even as He executes His just wrath upon their sin. So all who are saved, are saved by God and His grace alone. And all who are condemned, are condemned by their own willful rebellion and disobedience to God. For those who object to God not saving every human being, see Paul’s answer to this objection in Romans 9:11-26. The reality is that all who reject universalism (the belief that every human is saved; contra Matthew 7:13-14) limit God’s salvation either by man’s choice or God’s choice. But Romans 3:10ff, 8:7-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14; and John 3:19-20, 14:17 elicit great joy in God’s sovereign grace, for they teach us that if salvation was limited to man’s choice – not even one person

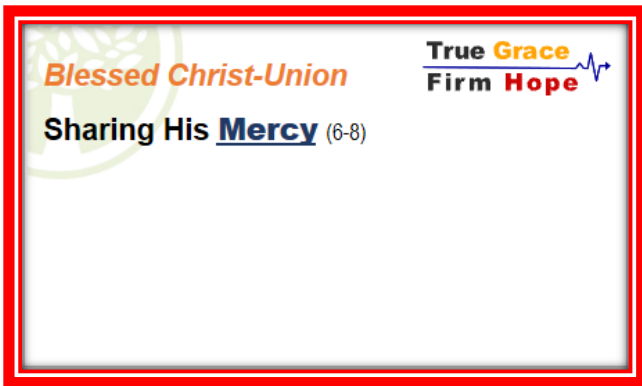
So the point is very clear. Believe on Jesus Christ. You’ll never regret such broken humility. Faith connects you with a joyful love for Jesus. Christ’s indwelling Spirit now powers your obedience to God, and your future is one of praise, joy, and blessing!

Now quickly, let’s consider our rich blessing of what it means to,

would choose Christ! While all people are responsible under the commands of God to repent and believe in Christ – only those whom God’s Spirit invasively renews (Titus 3:4-7; Jude 19; John 3:21) will ever desire to know and love Christ through the saving faith and repentance that God provides (c.f. John 6:29, 37, 44, 63-65; Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). God’s sovereign grace in salvation is offensive to human pride (John 6:66ff), but a great delight and comfort to the redeemed (Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:31-39). We must remember that every sinner profoundly deserves eternal hell. If we ever are tempted to think we are more merciful than God – we have lost sight of sin’s wretched pervasiveness and just consequence. Only a God of the greatest mercy would ever even save one – and we must never despise or make demands of His merciful generosity (Matthew 20:15-16). Contra our self-centered American culture, we must remember salvation is all about God and His glory – not man and his needs (Ephesians 1:3-14). Peter writes **verse 8** here to encourage the elect exiles that those who do not believe, and who are causing them so much trouble now, will eventually meet God’s justice – just as God has intended from the beginning. So take heart Christian – God’s mercy is alive and working in you!! Do not be discouraged today!

<sup>47</sup> Romans 12:19-21

<sup>48</sup> Luke 20:18

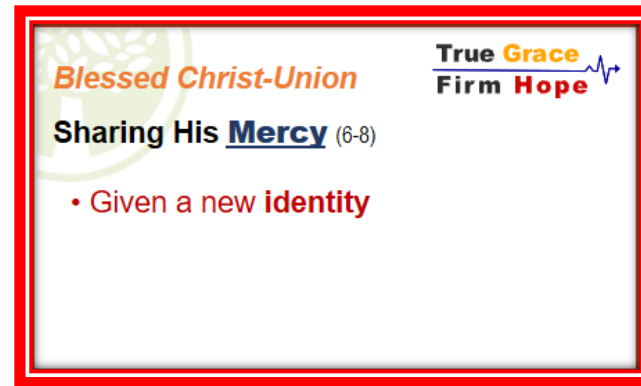


Share in Christ's Mercy in **verses 9-10**.

Don't allow the theological depth of **verse 8** to cause you to miss the entire force of this whole section. If you have further questions about God's predestination, I'd refer you to the footnotes and recommended resources in my manuscript this morning.

But please note that the entire force of Peter's argument in **verses 4-10** is to remind us that believers are so blessed to be united with Jesus!! God is building His church all upon the cornerstone of Jesus' finished work. And clearly – no sinner deserves to be chosen for such a royal and holy privilege!!

It is only by the great mercy of God that we have been born again<sup>49</sup> and,



Given a new identity!

Here's some of the precious honor that comes for those who believe in Jesus. In strong contrast to the unbelievers in **verses 7-8**, **verse 9** says believers,

*Are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, ... who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

Rejoice troubled Christian! Remember God called you from the ignorant and moral darkness of sin to the righteous light of life in Christ!<sup>50</sup> The world loves darkness – because they love sin.<sup>51</sup> But God's mercy has brought you out of the closet of sin. God's mercy has washed your soul with the renewal of Christ's Spirit!<sup>52</sup>

Now that you have received God's mercy, you are brand new!<sup>53</sup> You are a chosen race – meaning you are an elect people. God's people are not limited to one ethnic race, or one skin color, or one culture. God's people are

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<sup>49</sup> 1 Peter 1:3

<sup>50</sup> Colossians 1:13

<sup>51</sup> John 3:19-21

<sup>52</sup> Titus 3:4-7

<sup>53</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:17

limited to one election – all the despicable sinners whom God has chosen to save for His own glory are His people now!

Rejoice Church! In Christ, you are a royal priesthood. That means you will reign together with Christ in His literal 1,000 year reign on the earth!<sup>54</sup> Together with the rest of the redeemed you will judge the saints and angels according to **1 Corinthians 6**.<sup>55</sup>

You see, God has mercifully united you not only with Christ's life, but also with His priestly dominion!

Now you are a holy nation – a set-apart people. You've been mercifully separated from the world to Christ – as God's very own possession for Himself.

Just as **verse 10** summarizes,

*Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people!*

No wonder we sang with such thankful gusto this morning,

*What riches of kindness God lavished on us,  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!*

Dear soul who believes in Jesus, but now is sore persecuted by this world,

*Praise the Lord!  
His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!*

God's mercy has hung a sign on your soul that says, "under new management." New owner! I've been bought with a price – I no longer live for myself – but now because of great mercy I live for Him who died and was raised for my sake!<sup>56</sup>

And why did God have mercy on us again, church? By definition, it wasn't because we deserved it. According to the middle of **verse 9**, God showered you with mercy so *that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him*.

Please don't miss this church. For if we forget that God has mercifully,



**Blessed Christ-Union** **True Grace**  
**Firm Hope**

**Sharing His Mercy** (6-8)

- Given a new **identity**
- Given a new **purpose**

**Given us a new purpose** with our new identity, we will unfortunately just turn God into our servant. When we forget our new purpose, we turn God's mercy into merit.

<sup>54</sup> Revelation 20:4-6

<sup>55</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:1-4

<sup>56</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:15

We smugly exalt ourselves as better than others, and get fat and drunk on ourselves. So we must not miss this amazing blessing of our union with Christ.

The original word for *proclaim* is only used here in the New Testament. And it literally means, “to advertise.” To publish. To tell forth something that is generally otherwise unknown.

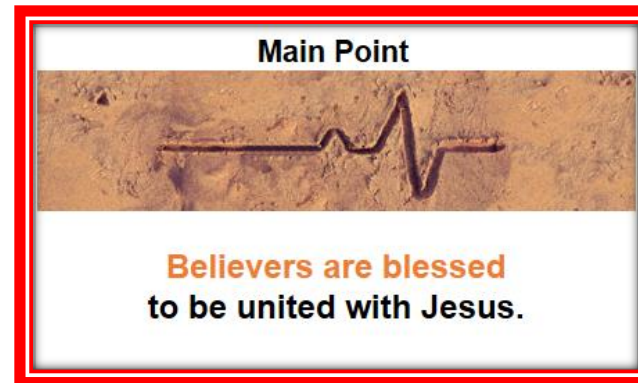
This is why God has caused you to be born again according to His great mercy! This is God’s purpose for you now that you have received His mercy! He wants you to be a living advertisement for His excellencies! And God’s excellencies are His glories. His redemptive actions of grace and mercy. His public holiness.

Peter is clearly reminding these persecuted Christians – don’t forget that God’s mercy has granted you one of the highest privileges known to mankind – You have been made into moving billboards for God’s glory!! You get to be the sweet smelling perfume of Christ in this world!<sup>57</sup> You get to be animated mannequins upon which God hangs the fruit of His Spirit!<sup>58</sup> God has mercifully made you into His dwelling place on the earth – so now the nations no longer need to travel to Jerusalem to meet with God – but God intends for people to come face to face with His gospel message through your life and lips today! You are now God’s ambassadors – and by His mercy God is making His appeal to others now through your faithful proclamation!<sup>59</sup>

What a blessed privilege to be so united with Christ!

<sup>57</sup> 2 Corinthians 2:14

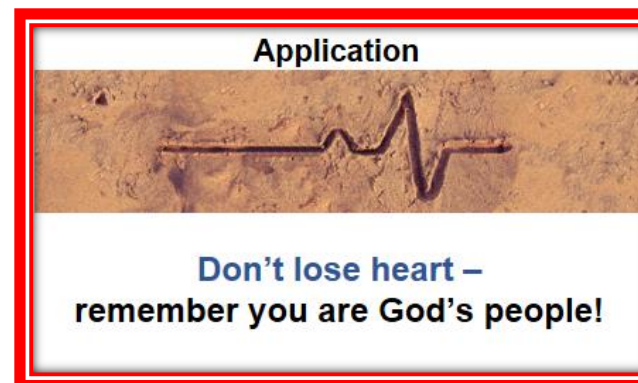
<sup>58</sup> Galatians 5:14-6:2



Have you forgotten that **Believers are so very privileged to be united with Jesus?**

Once you had to fend for yourself in this cold hard world. Once you were estranged and purposeless, outside of the blessings of God’s people.

But now, dear believer in Jesus Christ – celebrate these precious words in **verse 10** – *now you are God’s people!*



Therefore you must not **lose heart** – **remember you are God's people!**

<sup>59</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:20

In the middle of this pain, you have priestly access into the very throne room of God. So *draw near to God's throne of grace, that you may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*<sup>60</sup>

In the middle of this pain, you can now offer spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ! So *give thanks continually,*<sup>61</sup> for your eternal hope will never be disappointed!!

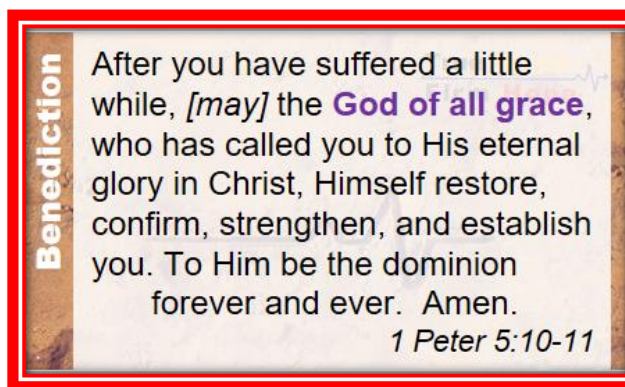
In the middle of this pain, you can yet taste the sweet honey of Christ. So do not despise how God's mercy calls you to carry the death of Christ so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in your body.<sup>62</sup>

In the middle of this pain, you have a ministry. So use your lips and your life to show and tell others just how good Jesus really is. Let His mercy towards you go public. Never allow your suffering to give you blessing amnesia. For as you come to Christ, you're coming to the very source and authority for your life! And through faith in Christ, God is building you up as His church – a people built entirely by His Mercy and for His glory!



**Let's pray together as we dismiss.**

<<How Firm a Foundation>>



*And after you have suffered a little while, [may] the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:10-11*

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<sup>60</sup> Hebrews 4:15-16

<sup>61</sup> Hebrews 13:15

<sup>62</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:10-12



### **Recommended Resources on A People Built by Mercy:**

- Genesis 49:24
- Deuteronomy 32:3-4, 31
- Psalm 34:8; 118:22-26
- Isaiah 8:14-15; 28:16
- Matthew 13:41; 16:18; 21:42-43
- Luke 20:17-18
- Acts 4:11
- Romans 9:22, 33; 11:9-11
- 1 Corinthians 3:11; 10:4; 16:22
- Ephesians 2:19-22
- Colossians 3:3-4
- 1 Timothy 3:15
- Hebrews 3:6
- Jude 4
  
- <https://wordboard.org/2017/06/03/psalm118v24/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/come-to-the-man-rejected-by-men>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/they-were-destined-to-disobey-god>
- <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/double-predestination/>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/double-predestination.html>
  
- Word-Centered Church, Jonathan Leeman
- The Cross and Salvation, Bruce Demarest
- Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, J.I. Packer

### **Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions**

1. Peter knew his Scriptures! Look up Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22, and Isaiah 8:14. What theme connected these verses in Peter's mind and caused him to quote them in 1 Peter 2:4-8?
2. Read Psalm 118:22-26. Watch the ~3-minute video made by Dr. Street's son James, found at <https://wordboard.org/2017/06/03/psalm118v24/>. How does this enrich your understanding of these verses?
3. Read Matthew 21:33-44. It's very possible Peter was thinking of this teaching when he wrote 1 Peter 2:4-8. According to 1 Peter 2:5, what are the fruits Jesus spoke of in Matthew 21:43? (C.f. Romans 12:1, 15:15-16; Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 4:18-19; Hebrews 13:15-16; Revelation 8:3-4) Is your life marked by these superior new covenant sacrifices now? Why or why not?
4. Read 1 Peter 2:4-10. What benefits are there to being united with Christ by faith in Him? How do these benefits strengthen your hope while you are being persecuted for righteousness?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:8, Jude 4, and Romans 9:22. These are very difficult and controversial verses for many people to accept. Being careful as a group not to lose the focus of Peter's main point in this text, discuss why you believe this teaching is so controversial for many. Reference some of the recommended links as needed to help keep your discussion grounded in Scripture.
6. Read 1 Peter 2:7-8 and 10. How would you define saving faith (true belief in God)? Have you personally received this gift of God's mercy? (C.f. John 3:5-6; Titus 3:5-7) Why or why not?