

BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON BEING CHOSEN

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

Two principles struck me in reading today's passage.

1. **Who we are (identity) determines what we do (purpose).** This principle was stated clearly in Bert's message on Sunday. When our current behaviour do not proclaim God's excellencies, the Word of God reminds us that we are God's chosen people. God's chosen people ought to behave like God's chosen people. Take heart - a life that glorifies God is not formed overnight. That we are being built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5) suggests that God is in the process of moulding us.
2. **Who we are (identity) is preceded by whose we are (allegiance/Lordship).** That verse 9 begins with the conjunction 'but' necessitate a closer look at verses 4 - 8. Before we, the living stones, can be built into the spiritual house, we must come to the Living Stone (1 Peter 2:1). I want to suggest that if we aren't experiencing the transforming power of the Spirit, it is because we do not come to Jesus. Or live unyielded lives to Jesus. This week's message dovetailed providentially with last week's. Only God's chosen people are being transformed into living stones that reflect God's glory. We cannot be transformed unless we come to Jesus. And we do not come to Jesus unless we are thirsty for Him.

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WARMING UP

1. What is your instinctive answer to the question 'Who am I?'
2. Does our behaviour reinforce our identity? Why or why not?

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read 1 Peter 2:4-8, Eph 2:19-22 - Jesus is a different Stone to different people

3. What are two responses that people have towards Jesus? How do we deepen our faith?
4. Why is there the emphasis on Jesus as the chief cornerstone? Practically, how do we build our lives on Jesus?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-11 - A Chosen People, A Royal Priesthood, A Holy Nation, God's special possession

5. What is the basis of God choosing us?
6. What are the privileges of priesthood? What are some examples of acceptable spiritual sacrifices?

Read 1 Peter 2:12-13, Heb 4:14-16, 1 Corin 10:13 - Living Godly Lives

7. 'Able not to sin'. Do you want to arrive at this spiritual reality? How does one get to this state?

MOVING FORWARD

I was encouraged to live life 'diachronistically' into the future. i.e. focus on the glorious destiny that we have as God's chosen people. In doing so, we live through time, rooted in the promises of God (not our own strength), assured in the timing of God (not ours) and trusting in the resources of God (not focusing on what we don't have).

I encourage you to do the same.

LIFE TOGETHER

We have one common link - Jesus.

In coming to Jesus, we are baptized into His body. Check out the words in today's passages.

- People, not person
- Priesthood, not a priest
- Holy nation, not a holy individual

For those not yet in a small group, join one.

For those already in a small group, declare your unity in Jesus. Resolve to relate to one another in a deeper level.

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These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read 1 Peter 2:4-8, Eph 2:19-22 - Jesus is a different Stone to different people

3. What are two responses that people have towards Jesus? How do we deepen our faith?

The two general responses are: they either believe in Jesus or are stumbled by Him. The focus is on the Object of our faith - God. The more we know God (not just head knowledge but intimacy with God), the deeper we grow in Him, the greater our faith will be.

4. Why is there the emphasis on Jesus as the chief cornerstone? Practically, how do we build our lives on Jesus?

In building terms, the cornerstone is critical because all other stones are set in reference to the cornerstone. The entire structure is dependent on the cornerstone. Jesus is the only foundation that we build on. All others are sinking sand. Practically, we need to know God's truth and obey. To know God's truth, we need to spend time reading, studying and reflecting the Bible.

Read 1 Peter 2:9-11 - A Chosen People, A Royal Priesthood, A Holy Nation, God's special possession

5. What is the basis of God choosing us?

God chose us in Jesus. Those who respond to Jesus become God's chosen. It is purely by the grace of God that He chose us.

6. What are the privileges of priesthood? What are some examples of acceptable spiritual sacrifices?

We have the privileges of coming directly into God's Presence every day. We are the living sacrifice (Rom 12:1), our faith (Phil 2:17), meeting a brother's need (Phil 4:18), sacrifice of praise (Heb 13:15), doing good and sharing (Heb 13:16).

Read 1 Peter 2:12-13, Heb 4:14-16, 1 Corin 10:13 - Living Godly Lives

7. 'Able not to sin'. Do you want to arrive at this spiritual reality? How does one get to this state?

By the grace of God, we all desire this spiritual reality of conquering sin. Believing in the promise of God (1 Cor 10:13) and living in the Spirit are two keys to living the victorious life.