

I Peter 2

- I. **V.1-3 – The need to grow in the Word that abides forever**
 - a. This Word produces better conduct
 - b. Peter is not saying we should remain “babes” in Christ, but rather that we should always “desire” the Word as a babe so that we may grow, having tasted the goodness of God and wanting more – the implication being that the only way to continue in the goodness of God is to continue to grow
- II. **V.4-10 – What Christ is and therefore what the saints are in Him**
 - a. Christ is a “living stone” – Which is to say, that all those who are “built” on Him come to life as well. He is chosen by God and precious, which is what we become if we “build” ourselves on Him
 - b. Our purpose in Him is to offer up spiritual sacrifices
 - c. Quotes from the OT show what was God’s plan all along – to make Christ the chief cornerstone of a new “temple”, knowing full well that the Jews would reject Him, not being what they were expecting from their Messiah
 - d. As being built on Christ, we have become:
 - i. A chosen (elect) generation
 - ii. A royal priesthood
 - iii. A holy nation
 - iv. His special (purchased) people
 - v. Who once were not a people and had not obtained mercy but now we have
- III. **V.11-20 – How this change should affect our conduct**
 - a. Our conduct should be honorable (kalos = beautiful)
 - i. We are sojourners and pilgrims on this earth; therefore these fleshly lusts should be done away with as they war against the soul
 - ii. Day of Visitation – Day of judgment (Luke 19:44)
 - b. Obey the laws of the land for the Lord’s sake
 - c. The will of God is that by doing beneficial deeds we may have an impact on people who are ignorant and foolish
 - d. We are not to use “liberty” as an excuse to do what we want. While we are free in regards to sin, that does not make us free to do what we want against the laws of man
 - e. Servants are to be obey their masters, regardless of how the master treats them
 - f. We are commended if we suffer wrongfully for doing beneficial deeds; we should not be suffering for doing evil...that doesn’t profit anyone
- IV. **V.21-25 – Christ has left us an example to be willing to suffer**
 - a. We should follow in His steps and be willing to suffer – He did beneficial deeds as well and was not thanked but hated
 - b. He did not lash out at those persecuting Him, but gave Himself up to Him that judges righteously (as opposed to those who were judging un-righteously) as we should do also
 - c. Christ bore the punishment for our sins in His own body (by His stripes we were healed) so that I wouldn’t have to suffer for sin
 - i. I became “dead to sins” by being baptized and changing my conduct (Rom. 6)
 - ii. By Christ’s sacrifice I have been given the means of being part of His flock – all I need to do is believe and obey

Questions

1. Is Peter teaching that it is okay to remain a babe in Christ? (i.e. is it okay to not grow and just remain where I am as a new Christian?) Why or why not?
2. What “spiritual sacrifices” do we offer up to God?
3. Define each of these: “a chosen generation”; “a royal priesthood”; “a holy nation”
4. In what way should our conduct be “honorable”? What will this automatically include and not include?
5. Give an example of a situation where our beneficial conduct could have an impact on those who see or hear what we do.
6. Is it true, as some attest, that we are not citizens of this country (as we have been set free and are citizens in Heaven), and thus we can pick and choose what laws we want to follow? Give examples of laws that may be included in this argument.
7. What beneficial deeds did Jesus do for which He was made to suffer?
8. What is the purpose for Peter to included how Jesus reacted (or didn't react) as He we being treated wrongfully?
9. There are religions that teach that Christ bore my sins on the cross...and therefore I am already saved, regardless of if I am baptized or even believe. Is Peter teaching that Christ bore my actual sins on the cross? What does “having died to sins” mean in it's context?