

#1 Don't Get Shook, God has the Controls

Lam. 3:3c

PATTERN # TWO

#2 GET TOUGH AND START GROWING 1:13 - 2:3

KEY VERSES: 1:13, 2:2 Wherefore when you have girded the loins of your mind, be well-balanced, set your hope fully upon the grace that is being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk in order that by it you may grow up in salvation.

MEMORY VERSES: 2:2,3

TEXT: 1:13 - 2:3

Wherefore when you have girded the loins of your mind, be well-balanced, set your hope fully upon the grace that is being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance. But according to the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your conduct. Because it has been written: You shall be holy for I am holy. If you are calling upon as father the one who is judging impartially according to each individual's work, live in fear the time of your stay here in a strange land. Knowing that not with perishable things as silver or gold were you ransomed from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers. But with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish and without spot. Who indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world but was manifested at the end of the times for your sake. Who through Him are believers in God, the one who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory so that your faith and hope might be in God. Having purified your souls by means of your obedience to the truth unto genuine (unhypocritical) love of the brethren, love one another from the heart earnestly. Having been born again not of perishable seed but of imperishable through the living and abiding Word of God. For all flesh is as grass and all its glory as the flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower falls, but the Word of the Lord is abiding forever. And this is the word of good news which was preached unto you. Wherefore having put away all malice and all deceit and pretenses and envies and all slanderings, like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk in order that by it you may grow up in salvation for you tasted that the Lord is loving (kind; benevolent).

EXPOSITION: Whereas in Pattern #1 we learned what God has provided for us, now in Pattern #2 we are going to learn what we are to do in view of the great salvation which has been provided for us.

Paul when he is writing the Philippians in chapter two verses 12 and 13 says, "so then my dearest friends as you have always followed my advice and that not only when I was present to give it so now that I am far away be keener than ever to work out the salvation that God has given you with a proper sense of awe and responsibility for it is God who is at work within you giving you the will and the power to achieve His purpose."

Verse Thirteen: Wherefore when you have girded the loins of your mind, be well-balanced, set your hope fully upon the grace that is being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1. "Wherefore" points back in the passage to all that has been said in regard to the salvation that has been made available to us. Now what is our responsibility.
2. When you have girded the loins of your mind. The thought here of course is the preparing of your minds for action.

- ① Born into His family
- ② Inheritance Reserved
- ③ Protected by His Power

Each year
should see
progress in
our lives
toward
X-likeness

Faith Building

This was done, and recorded, in order to encourage God's people in all ages to trust Him in the greatest straits.

Red Sea Rule #9 —MATTHEW HENRY

Lord, increase our faith.

Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.

I've often uttered these prayers, knowing that faith isn't something I can muster up at will; it must be given by God and developed according to the processes He has ordained.

He is, after all, a God who grows things. Physically, each of us began life as a tiny speck. It's a marvelous cell, for all the characteristics of each person—sex, eye color, shoe size, intelligence, and so forth—are determined at fertilization by the baby's genetic code that resides in the forty-six human chromosomes in that one cell. We begin microscopically, then grow.

Faith is also a growing entity. God intends to develop us spiritually. How? Like any good teacher, He bestows truth, then devises tests to review and reinforce that truth, to transfer and translate it into lasting, life-changing experiences.

#21

102 RED SEA RULE 9

Like any good coach, He sits down with His players, using a game book of Scripture, gives us information, explains the rules, reviews the plays. Then comes the scrimmage. Then videotapes, chewing out, more data, and another scrimmage. It's a virtually endless cycle, but in the process good players become skilled professionals. Good people become growing disciples, and little faith grows into great faith.

That was how He worked with the children of Israel and with the disciples. With the Israelites, He gave instructions through Moses, then brought them to the edge of the Red Sea or, later, into a desert with no water. He said, "Now here's a test. Let's see if you can apply My promises to your problem."

God Is Building You

I. INTRODUCTION

I Am Still Growing

Sir Edmund Hillary failed in several of his early attempts to climb Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world. On one occasion he had to leave five associates dead on the side of that great mountain. Still, the British parliament wanted to recognize these valiant efforts, so they invited Hillary into their chambers. They even placed a picture of Mount Everest at the front of the room.

When Sir Edmund Hillary entered the room, the members of Parliament rose to give him a standing ovation. When he saw these great legislators standing and applauding his good effort, tears filled his eyes. Many members of Parliament noticed the tears and thought, *Look, the tears of happiness that we are recognizing this good effort he has made.*

They were not tears of happiness and joy; they were tears of anger and frustration! Sir Edmund Hillary certainly had not set out to leave five associates dead on the side of that mountain, so he walked to the front of the room and literally pounded on the picture of Mount Everest. He screamed at the mountain: "You defeated me! But you won't defeat me again! Because you have grown all that you can, but I am still growing!"

As Hillary walked to the front of the room, he recognized something that many people never recognize: Certainly he had made a good effort to climb that mountain, but the greatest enemy of excellence is good! He had not set out to make a "good effort" at climbing Mount Everest, but to arrive at the top. Ultimately, he was the first person to climb Mount Everest. Why? Because he continued to grow and refused to be satisfied with the good.

Having worked for many years in Africa, David Livingstone returned to England briefly. Someone greeted him, "Well, Dr. Livingstone, where are you ready to go now?" Livingstone responded, "I am ready to go anywhere, provided it be forward."

Every Christian should find a moment of transparent honesty for spiritual life assessment. Are we, with Sir Edmund Hillary, still growing? Are we, with David Livingstone, moving forward? Or, has rigor mortis of the soul begun to set in?

First Peter 2 is about growing spiritually. The apostle Peter understood the danger of spiritual rigor mortis. He knew what it was like to yawn spiritually, to find yourself ankle deep in concrete with no forward movement or progress. Peter had spent enough time in the twilight zone of spiritual

nothingness to be able to relate to it and warn against it. Chapter 2 will assist us in moving forward in our faith and growing up spiritually.

II. COMMENTARY

God Is Building You

MAIN IDEA: *Becoming a member of God's family initiates a life-long building program. Just as buildings under construction improve in appearance as they near completion, so, too, should the behavior and attitudes of believers improve as we get nearer our eternal reward.*

Ruth Graham: "End of Construction. Thank You For Your Patience."

A Beginning to Grow Up (vv. 1-3)

SUPPORTING IDEA: *Spiritual growth is fueled by an appreciation of God's grace.*

2:1-2. This section logically flows out of the previous chapter and is connected to it with the word **therefore** which draws the reader back to the subject of the Word of God. The Word of God was the content of Peter's preaching. The life-changing power of the Word must affect our lives as Christians. Reborn children of God should exhibit their new life in their day-to-day conduct. Believers ought to exhibit a different quality of life, marked by continuous growth (see v. 2c).

Newborn babies connects chapter 2 directly with the last section of chapter 1 with its reference to new birth (1:23). "Newborn babies" does not indicate that these readers were new Christians. Some were thirty years old in the faith. All believers need to long for the spiritual milk or nourishment of God's Word in the same way that a baby longs for milk. **Crave** refers to an intense and continuous desire. Spiritual growth begins and continues through the application of the Word of God (see 1:23-25).

These verses list five sins of attitude and speech that we must rid ourselves of if spiritual growth is to proceed. "Rid" is a forceful word that calls us to "cast off or aside" certain practices that are deterrents to spiritual growth. What needs to be cast off "is not the grosser vices of paganism, but community destroying vices that are often tolerated by the modern church. When a community is under pressure, there is a tendency to begin bickering and division, which only makes the community that much more vulnerable to outside pressure" (Davids, 80).

- 1 **Malice**, an attitude similar to hatred, is the desire to inflict pain, harm, or injury on another person. It includes the holding of grudges and acting out of these grudges against others.

Bill Gothard: "Please be Patient. God is Not Finished with Me Yet."

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② **Deceit** refers to deliberate dishonesty, to speaking or acting with ulterior motives. Anything less than speaking the full and honest truth from the heart is deceit. This vice is the selfish, two-faced attitude that deceives and hurts others for personal gain.

③ **Hypocrisy** has an intriguing history. It comes from a verb meaning “to answer.” A hypocrite originally was simply a person who answered. Then the word came to mean “an actor,” a person who takes part in a stage drama, specifically the interactive narrative parts of question and answer in the play. From there, this word came to mean a person who is acting out a part and concealing his true motives.

④ **Envy** must also be cast aside. Envy begins with a desire to possess what belongs to someone else. But it is more than this. It is a resentful discontent. Envy is “the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others” (Hiebert, 111).

⑤ Envy often finds expression through **slander of every kind**—the final behavior attitude that Peter mentions in verse 1. “Slander” (*katalaleo*) literally means “to speak against someone.” It suggests running others down verbally. It is speech that deliberately assaults the character of other persons. It is any speech that harms another person’s status or reputation.

None of these practices should have any place in those people who are born again. In obedience to the command of God, believers are to rid themselves of such attitudes and actions.

2:3. Believers in Jesus Christ have experienced a taste of God’s grace in their lives. God’s grace is no excuse for us to behave as we please. The goodness and grace of God should be our greatest incentives to spiritual growth and progress.

B Beginning to Grow Up Together (vv. 4–10)

SUPPORTING IDEA: *Christians must grow together not just as individuals, but as living stones, which, when joined together with others, become integral parts in God’s building of a spiritual house.*

2:4. We are coming to Christ, **the living Stone**. Christ is the living, resurrected, and life-giving God. Each person accepts or rejects this “living Stone.” *Rejection* means “to examine and reject because of lack of value.” This rejection refers to the people of the first century who ultimately crucified Christ and to anyone since that time who has not embraced him as personal Savior.

God the Father places infinite value upon Christ. **Precious** (*entimon*) describes our costly redemption through Christ, mentioned in 1:19 (*timio*).

2:5. The decision to believe in Jesus Christ admits an individual into a spiritual building program. When anyone comes to Christ, as the Living Stone, a new stone is added to God’s spiritual building—Christ’s church. As a

- ① Don't Get Shook, God has The controls
 ② Get Tough & start Growing 42.

PATTERN NUMBER THREE
YOU ARE PART OF THE ESTABLISHMENT 2:4-10

KEY VERSE: 2:5 And you also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: 2:9

TEXT: 2:4-10

Toward whom we are drawing near, a living stone, having been it is true, rejected by men but with God elect, precious. And you also as living stone are being built up a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Because of this it is contained in scripture: "Behold I am laying in zion a stone, one chosen out, a precious cornerstone. And the one who is believing on him shall by no means be disappointed." To you therefore who are believing is the preciousness but to those who are unbelievers, the stone which the builders rejected, this (stone) became a head cornerstone. And a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock which arouses opposition for they are stumbling at the word being an unbeliever to which indeed they were appointed. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people that have become (God's own) possession, in order that you might proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light who at one time were not a people but now are God's people; who once had not found mercy, but now have found mercy.

EXPOSITION: Peter has shared with us chapter 1 the glorious future which is ours because of our salvation which is Christ, and also our responsibility to get serious and to grow up in this salvation. Now we find here in chapter 2 that he is going to be sharing with us our privileged position as living stones in a spiritual house.

* Paul refers to us as members of a spiritual body, each having different functions. The pressure today, of course, is to do your own thing and think only about yourself rather than about your relationship with others.

Verse Four: Toward whom we are drawing near, a living stone, having been it is true, rejected by men but with God elect, precious.

1:19 "But with precious blood, As of a Lamb without blemish + spotless, the blood of Christ"

1. The stone in verse four refers back to the Lord in verse 3. It is He to whom we are drawing near. The world sees a rock & God sees a diamond

He is given the title, a living stone, in this verse. In 1:3 we have a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and in 1:23 we have been born again by the living word and now 2:4 Christ is referred to as a living stone. Having been, it is true, rejected by men. "But" forms a contrast with God elect, precious.

Luck points out in the verses just preceding these, "the symbol of milk was used. Here the figure changes to a stone. Christ our Lord is a living stone. Did not Peter have in mind as he used these words the purpose announced by Jesus many years before, just after Peter's great confession 'Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it'?" Some would tell us that Peter himself is that rock upon which the church is built. In this passage in I Peter no hint is made of such a thing. Time after time Christ is called the stone or rock. He, the living stone, the solid foundation was disallowed or rejected."

Verse Five: And you also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

God is building us! Shaped & ready for use in construction!

Precious
OF GREAT
Value!

Peter
Building
Paul
Body

1 Cor
12

- 1. In verse four, Peter has referred to Christ as the living stone and now the Christians also are living stones. Eph. 4:25, "Finish then with lying and tell your neighbor the truth for we are not separate units but intimately related to each other in Christ."
- 2. Eph. 2:19-22, "So you are no longer outsiders or aliens, but fellow citizens with other Christians. You belong now to the household of God. Firmly beneath you is the foundation, God's messengers and prophets, the actual foundation stone being Jesus Christ Himself. In Him, each separate piece of building, properly fitting into its neighbor, grows together into a temple consecrated to God. You are all part of this building in which God himself lives by His Spirit."
- 3. We are all in this together. There is no room for separate units in the body of Christ or in the spiritual house that is being built. We are all dependent one upon the other.
4. This thought of unity and dependence is expressed in the prayer of the Lord Jesus in John 17, "I am not praying only for these men but for all those who will believe in me through their message, that they may all be one just as you, Father, live in me and I live in you. I am asking that they may live in us that the world may believe that you did send me."
- 5. Pattern Number Three says you are part of the establishment. There is a lot being said today about overthrowing the old patterns in order to get something new. Peter tells us, however, that we as Christians are a building and in this building there are living stones. We are those living stones along with Christ and if we do not fit into our place and carry our load and fulfill our responsibility, the building is structurally weakened as a result.
6. Smith points out, "The materials in this building are living stones. Such are Christian believers drawn out of nature's quarry. They are cut and polished by the spirit of the living God and are then prepared for the place they are to occupy in the temple of the Lord of hosts. The figure is a bold one for it may be asked, 'Do stones live?' Yet, it is a most appropriate one for dull and shapeless things as stones are yet under the skill of the lapidary they receive new forms and take so fine a polish, that when brought together they glitter in the light of the mid-day sun as did the stones of the temple that stood on Zion's hill. Even so do Christians live, dead by nature in trespasses and sins and often moreover so unseemly and so stained that it might be supposed impossible to kindle them into life. Yet by the grace of God they are quickened, cleansed and purified while some of them, at least, take such a high spiritual polish that they shine with a luster surpassing far the luster of the diamond, the amethyst, or the ruby."
7. Living stones, made alive by the new birth, refined and polished by the testings of the present day fitted into a spiritual house with other living stones.
8. Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Hardy of Arizona believe they are the largest suppliers of turquoise. Some stones are so dull that they reflect only a grey tint, but after being placed in a chemical solution for 90 days they become hardened and the lovely blue. Is it not in the same manner that God takes us as humble believers who were dead in trespasses and sin who were of no value at all and places within us His life by the new birth, and then daily polishes us in the rock tumbler of experience.
- 9. Peter goes on to say that we as living stones are being built up a spiritual house, into a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
10. Dr. Chafer points out, "As the old Testament high priest is a type of Christ, so the Old Testament priest is a type of the believer. The priest of both Testaments is born to his office, properly inducted into service by a full bath, serving under divine appointment."

Guy
having A
Real Rough
Time.
Shaping it
down here
So that
it will
Fit up there!

Israel had a priesthood in one family only. All the church is a priesthood. The New Testament priest offers no efficacious sacrifices but is unceasingly responsible in matters of worship, sacrifice, and intercession.

- 11. Our sacrifices are seen in several passages of Scripture. First of all in Romans 12:1 we read, "With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you my brothers as an act of intelligent worship to give him your bodies as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him."

Hebrews 13:15 speaks of another sacrifice. "Our constant sacrifice to God should be the praise of lips that give thanks to His name."

Phil. 4:18-20 speak of still another sacrifice to the believer. "Now I have everything I want, infact I am rich. Yes, I am quite content, thanks to your gifts, received through Epaphroditus. Your generosity is like a lovely fragrance, a sacrifice that pleases the very heart of God. My God will supply all that you need for his glorious resources in Christ Jesus, and may glory be to our God and our Father forever and ever. Amen."

14. And so we learn we are living stones, being built up in a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices of our bodies, our belongings, and our blessings.

15. The final phrase "acceptable to God, through Jesus Christ." This phrase refers to the spiritual sacrifices to a holy God and they are only acceptable to him through Jesus Christ and His blood which was shed in our behalf.

Verse Six: Because of this it is contained in scripture: "Behold I am laying in zion a stone, one chosen out, a precious cornerstone and the one who is believing on him shall by no means be disappointed."

1. Peter now fortifies what he has been saying in the fifth verse with a Scripture passage. "Because of this" refers back to the truth that has been taught in verse 5, "it is contained in scripture: 'Behold I God the Father am laying in zion a stone, one chosen out, a precious cornerstone.'"

2. Peter certainly does not recognize from the Matthew 16 passage that he is to be the stone upon which the church is going to be built. Here he makes it clear that the precious cornerstone, the stone that hold all the other stones together, is Jesus Christ. He it is that is the precious cornerstone and Peter adds "and the one who is believing on him shall by no means be disappointed". Our hope in Him, of course, is a living hope and we shall by no means be disappointed.

Verse Seven: To you therefore who are believing is the preciousness but to those who are not believers, the stone which the builders rejected, this (stone) became a head cornerstone.

1. "To you", Peter is referring to Christians who are believing this preciousness. Even as the head cornerstone is precious to God the Father, so He is precious to us who are believing. The opposite, however, is true to those who are not believing. He is the stone which the builders rejected. John 1:11 points up this truth, "He came unto his own and his own received him not."

- 2. This stone which is precious to the believer and rejected by the unbeliever has become the head cornerstone.

- 3. Jesus Christ was cast aside and rejected by the world, but in the plan of God He now has a place of supreme importance. He it is who is the head cornerstone.

4. Tradition has it that at the building of Solomon's Temple a stone which was rejected and lost in the chips and dust of the building, was finally found and selected as the top stone-- the stone which was needed to complete the building.

- 5. The world flings the Saviour's side, but God the Father has chosen for Him the most honorable and important place in His building.

Blessings

Belongings

Bodies

Cain
Abel

Precious

He didn't
Fit their
Plans!

Isaiah 28:16

Therefore, this is what the sovereign master, the Lord, says: "Look, I am laying a stone in Zion, an approved stone, set in place as a precious cornerstone for the foundation. The one who maintains his faith will not panic.

Psalm 118:22-24

The stone which the builders discarded
has become the cornerstone.

This is the Lord's work.

We consider it amazing!

This is the day the Lord has brought about.

We will be happy and rejoice in it.

"To You Therefore Who Are Believing" --

2:7 "The honor is to You who believe"

"The honor or privilege that we experience is that we will never be ashamed of our relationship to Jesus Christ."

Verse Eight: And a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock which arouses opposition for they are stumbling at the word being an unbeliever to which indeed they were appointed.

1. This stone, Christ, causes men to stumble who do not believe in Him as the Son of God and this rock, Christ, arouses opposition which is quite obvious when you read through the Gospels as the opposition to arise from those who were not willing to accept Christ for who He was.
2. The reason given for the stone causing men to stumble and the rock arousing opposition is they are stumbling at the word, being an unbeliever.
3. John 12:48, "He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings have ~~they~~ ^{been} judged, the word that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day."
4. Jesus speaks about the matter of building our lives upon the shifting sand of the present, or upon the rock, which of course, typifies Christ in Matt. 7:24-29. "Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a sensible man who builds his house on the rock. Down came the rain and up came the floods while the winds blew and roared upon that house, and it did not fall for its foundations were upon the rock, and everyone who hears these words of mine and does not follow them can be compared with the foolish man who built his house upon the sand. Down came the rain and up came the floods, while the winds blew and battered that house until it collapsed and fell with a great crash." When Jesus had finished these words the crowd were astonished at the power behind his teaching for his words had the ring of authority quite unlike those of their scribes."
5. The last phrase in verse 8 says, "To which indeed they were appointed."
6. Peter, in his second epistle, 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promises as some men count slackness. But is long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
- * * 7. It is not the desire of God the Father that any should perish, but because of his foreknowledge He knows that there will be those who will stumble at the stone, and be opposed to the rock, and as a result seal their own condemnation by rejecting Jesus Christ.

Verse Nine: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people that have become (God's own) possession, in order that you might proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Israel

1. "But" forms a contrast to the previous. Once again he is talking about the Christians and he has four characteristics of Christians here in this verse. First of all, they are a chosen race. In verse 1 he referred to them as chosen exiles, and now here they are a chosen race. Peter has the nation Israel in mind, and he is thinking of the Jews as a chosen race in the Old Testament times and now the Christians by their relationship to Jesus Christ, through the new birth, are a chosen race.
2. They are a royal priesthood. Because we come by a new and living way, the precious blood of Christ, we have access into the presence of the Father. The spiritual sacrifices which we bring are the sacrifices of our body, our belonging, and our blessing.
3. Thirdly, we see Peter calling Christians a holy nation. Even as Israel was a nation in the Old Testament, uniquely set apart for God, so the Church, the Body of Christ, becomes a nation of people uniquely related to God the Father through Jesus Christ.
4. The fourth thing that is said in verse 9 about Christians is that they are a people that have become God's own possession.
5. Barclay, in commenting on this phrase, says, "Christians are a people for God especially to possess. It frequently happens that the value of a thing lies in the fact someone has

possessed it. A very ordinary thing acquires a new value if it has been possessed by some famous person. In any museum we will find quite ordinary things--clothes, a walking stick, books, pieces of furniture which are only of value because they were once possessed and used by some great person. It is the ownership which gives them worth. It is so with the Christian. The Christian may be a very ordinary person, but he acquires a new value and dignity and greatness because he belongs to God. The greatness of the Christian lies in the fact that he is God's."

6. Eph. 1:12-14, "That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ, in whom ye also trusted after ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after ye believed you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, who is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession unto the praise of His glory."
7. The purpose is now given for our being a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation a people that have become God's own possession. "In order that you might proclaim the virtues of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Proclaiming the virtues of Jesus Christ, the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. *Proclaiming Virtues = Praise!*
8. II Cor. 4:4 says, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ who is the image of God should shine unto them."
9. I John 2:9-11, "For the darkness is beginning to list and the true light is now shining in the world. Anyone who claims to be in the light and hates his brother is in fact still in complete darkness. The man who loves his brother lives and moves in the light and has no reason to stumble, but the man who hates his brother is shut off from the light and gropes his way in the dark without seeing where he is going. To move in the dark is to move blindfold."
10. Jesus says of himself in John 9:4,5, "We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day. Night comes when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."
11. Jesus, in His interview with Nicodemus, concludes it by saying, "This is the judgment that light has entered the world, and men have preferred darkness to light because their deeds are evil. Anybody who does wrong hates the light and keeps away from it for fear his deeds may be exposed. But anyone who is living by the truth will come to the light to make it plain that all he has done has been done through God."
12. Called out of darkness into His, that is Christ's, marvelous light. Francis Schaeffer in his book, *Death in the City*, points out, "Our generation needs to be told that man cannot disregard God, that a culture like ours that has had such light and then has deliberately turned away, stands under God's judgment. God is a God of grace, but the other side of the coin of grace is judgment. If God is there, if God is holy-- and we need a holy God or we have no absolutes--there must be judgment."
- * 13. Peter, then, in this ninth verse, calls us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a people that have become God's own possession. The purpose in all of this is that we might proclaim the virtues of Christ, who has called us out of the darkness of sin into the marvelous light of his grace.

Verse Ten: Who at one time were not a people but now are God's people; who once had not found mercy, but now have found mercy.

What
does
mean
You
think
of?

John
3:19,20

I Cor 6:19,20

1. Peter in this verse uses two negative and positive approaches to show what has taken place in our lives since we've become Christians ① There was a time when we were not a people, and now we are God's people ② There was a time when we had not found mercy, but now we have found mercy.
2. Hort points out, "He, that is Peter, is anxious to acclaim afresh for Christian use the ideas that are so very prominent in the Old Testament of a community of men who do in a special sense belong to the Lord of the whole earth, who are not only holy to Him but are emphatically His own."
3. Paul speaks of this to the Corinthians in II Cor. 6:14-18, "Don't link up with unbelievers and try to work with them. What common interests can there be between goodness and evil. How can light and darkness share light together? How can there be harmony between Christ and the devil? What business can a believer have with an unbeliever? What common ground can idols hold with the temple of God? For we, remember, are ourselves living temples of the living God as God has said, 'I will dwell in them and walk in them and I will be their God and they shall be my people.' Wherefore come ye out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch no unclean thing and I will receive you and will be to you a father, and you shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."
4. Peter has spoken of the mercies which are ours in Christ in chapter 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

CONCLUSION: Pattern Number Three is "You Are Part of the Establishment". In This passage we have learned that Christ is a living stone and we likewise are living stones, being built up in a spiritual house.

Barclay points out, "Now the point is quite clear so long as a brick lies by itself it is useless. It only becomes of use when it is built into a building. That is why it was made and it is in being built into a building that it realizes its function and the reason for its existence. It is so with the Christian, to realize his destiny, he must not remain alone. A Spartan king boasted to a visiting monarch about the walls of Sparta. The visiting monarch looked around and he could see no walls. He said to the Spartan king, "Where are these walls about which you speak and boast so much?" The Spartan king pointed at his bodyguard of magnificent Spartan troops, "These", he said, "are the walls of Sparta and every man of them a brick."

Eph. 2:12-20, "Remember in those days you were living utterly apart from Christ. You were enemies of God's children and He has promised you no help. You were without God, without hope, but now you belong to Christ Jesus and though you were once far away from God, now you have been brought very near to him because of what Jesus Christ has done for you with His blood. For Christ Himself is our way of peace. He has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making one person out of us, breaking down the wall of anger that use to divide us. By his death he ended the angry resentment between us, caused by the Jewish laws which favored the Jews and excluded the Gentiles. For he died to annul that whole system of Jewish laws. Then he took the two groups that had been opposed to each other and made them parts of Himself, thus fused them together as one new person and at last there was peace. As parts of the same body, their anger against each other disappeared, for both were reconciled to God and so the feud ended at last at the cross. He has brought this good news of peace to you Gentiles who were very far away from Him and to us Jews who were near. Now all of us, whether Jews or Gentiles, may come to God the Father with the Holy Spirit's help because of what Christ has done for us. Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizen's of God's country and you belong in God's household with every other Christian. What a foundation you stand on now

“Although it’s great to be called a PGA Tour player, and it’s probably greater to be called a PGA Champion, I don’t think there’s any greater gift than is mine, to be called a child of God.”

P a u l A z i n g e r



I N A N U T S H E L L

Chapter 2 describes how God is building Christians. Live godly lives, Peter declared, for God is building you into a spiritual house through Christ. He has made you a royal priesthood to be a positive example and witness to others. Therefore, respond properly to human authorities as well as to unjust suffering in your lives. Remind yourselves that Jesus Christ himself suffered unjustly and is your example.

the apostles and the prophets, and the cornerstone of the building is Jesus Christ himself. Along with Christ, we who believe, are carefully joined together as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple of God, and you also are joined in with him and with each other with the Spirit and are part of this dwelling place of God."

Lessons

- ① Are You A Stone in His building?
- ② Has Jesus Christ become precious to You?
Have You told Him He is?
- ③ The sacrifices of A Godly priest Are blessings
bodies & belongings.
- ④ You shall by no means be disappointed. --
- ⑤ Are You proclaiming the virtues of
Jesus Christ?
Changes our focus from the problem to
the Person

O Come let us Adore Him.
For He Alone is worthy
to You be All the Glory. ~

He is Lord... - 71

Father I Adore You... - 213

Today's Faith Visuals.



Taken from "Memories of Mom," www.christianitytoday.com (2001)

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ILLUSTRATION

Luis Palau on His Conversion

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Topics: Accepting Christ; Awakenings; Belief; Bible; Born again; Carnality; Change; Choices; Conversion; Conviction; Experiencing God; Faith; Flesh; Lostness; New life; New man; Prayer; Prayer to God; Prayer, answered; Prayer, answers to; Prayer, earnestness in; Prayer, in God's will; Prayer, power of; Prayers; Prayers, answered; Prayers, answers to; Providence; Rebirth; Receiving Christ; Redemption; Salvation; Stumbling blocks; Surrender; Transformation; World; Worldliness; Youth

Filters: Christian Culture; Editor's Choice★; Everyday Disciples; Famous People; Youth & Children

References: Matthew 7:7-8, Matthew 11:28, Matthew 18:21-35, Matthew 21:21-22, Luke 1:37, Luke 18:1-8, John 3:3, Acts 3:19, 1 Corinthians 1:17-31, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 6:10-18, Philippians 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:13, 1 John 4:19, Revelation 22:17

Tone: Commend

Luis Palau, the Argentine-born international evangelist, describes his conversion to Christ as a young man:

I met a young Jewish Christian from England, about 20, by the name of Charlie Cohen. He led me to Jesus Christ at a summer camp. For the next year or so, while at boarding school, I went to really good Bible studies at Cohen's house. But I began to drift away—stupid teenager, me. I lost my Bible on a street car. It became a two-year "empty moment." I had friends who were not Christians, and I wanted to accommodate them. ...

We had made plans to go to carnival—a week of debauchery and drinking before the holy season. I began to feel if I went to this, it would wreck my life. It would be a turning point.

I had not prayed for many months, although I went to church under the duress of my grandpa and grandma mostly. The night before we were to leave, I just felt compelled to pray. I did not have the strength to just say no to my friends, but I knew it would be a huge mistake to go with them. I prayed, "Lord, if you get me out of this, I will break with the world, and I will serve you."

A most amazing thing happened: I woke up the next morning, and my mouth was swollen to the size of a tennis ball, which I took as a rather dramatic answer to prayer. I called one of the other guys and was able to tell him that I was not going to go. That morning was a new beginning. I bought a new Bible and left Buenos Aires to move to Córdoba, where my mom and four sisters were living. ... The next few years brought a remarkable time of spiritual growth.

Interview, "Louis Palau," Outreach Magazine (March/April 2009), p. 86

Ray Stedman brought him to the States

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UNQUESTIONED REVELATION

"In that day you will ask Me nothing" (John 16:23).

When is "that day"? It is when the ascended Lord makes you one with the Father. "In that day" you will be one with the Father just as Jesus is, and He said, "In that day you will ask Me nothing." Until the resurrection life of Jesus is fully exhibited in you, you have questions about many things. Then after a while you find that all your questions are gone—you don't seem to have any left to ask. You have come to the point of total reliance on the resurrection life of Jesus, which brings you into complete oneness with the purpose of God. Are you living that life now? If not, why aren't you?

"In that day" there may be any number of things still hidden to your understanding, but they will not come between your heart and God. "In that day you will ask Me nothing"—you will not need to ask, because you will be certain that God will reveal things in accordance with His will. The faith and peace of John 14:1 has become the real attitude of your heart, and there are no more questions to be asked. If anything is a mystery to you and is coming between you and God, never look for the explanation in your mind, but look for it in your spirit, your true inner nature—that is where the problem is. Once your inner spiritual nature is willing to submit to the life of Jesus, your understanding will be perfectly clear, and you will come to the place where there is no distance between the Father and you, His child, because the Lord has made you one. "In that day you will ask Me nothing."

Chambers

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