

1 PETER 2:4-10 “LIVING STONES, LIVING EPISTLES”

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but **chosen by God and precious**,

5 you also, as **living stones**, are being built up **a spiritual house, a holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- “**Coming to Him**” does not refer to the initial response of a sinner who comes to Christ for salvation. The participle’s tense and voice indicate that this coming is a personal, habitual approach. It is an intimate association of communion and fellowship between believers and their Lord. ¹
- Affirmations in light of rejections – “*Rejected indeed by men*”
 - Chosen by God
 - Precious to God
 - Living stones
 - A Spiritual house
 - A Holy priesthood
 - Acceptable to God

Speaks of:

1. Connection to Christ and to His church

- Living stones forming a Spiritual house
- No Christian is meant stand alone

*No man is an island, entire of itself
every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main
if a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were,
as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were
any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind
and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls
it tolls for thee.*

-- John Donne

- Brick by itself is somewhat useless
- Along with other bricks they make a Spiritual house

C.E. Cranfield writes:

“The free-lance Christian, who would be a Christian but is too superior to belong to the visible Church upon earth in one of its forms, is simply a contradiction in terms.” ²

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

²*The letters of James and Peter*. 2000, c1976 (W. Barclay, lecturer in the University of Glasgow, Ed.). The Daily study Bible series, Rev. ed. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press.

- To realize his full destiny a Christian must become a part of the fabric of a church
 - Teaches submission
 - Teaches humility
 - Teaches contentment through shared trials.

2. Priesthood in every Christian

Revelation 1:6 and **has made us kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- A priest has two solemn duties:
 - He has access to God and is responsible for bring others before his God.
 - He brings his sacrifices and offerings before God, and is responsible for bringing other's sacrifices and offerings to God.

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- **Living Epistles:**

2 Corinthians 3:2-3

2 You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

3 clearly *you are* an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart.

6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."

7 Therefore, to you who believe, *He is* precious; but to those who are disobedient, "*The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,*"

8 and "**A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.**" They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

Psalm 118:22-24

22 The stone *which* the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This was the LORD's doing; *It is* marvelous in our eyes.

24 This *is* the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Isaiah 8:13-15

13 The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow;

Let Him *be* your fear, And *let* Him *be* your dread.

14 He will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
15 And many among them shall stumble; They shall fall and be broken, Be snared and taken.”

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.

- **Peter clearly understood that Jesus was the rock on which the church would be built.**
- **Not Peter himself!**

Matthew 16:13-20

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered and said, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and **on this rock** I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give you **(the church)** the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

9 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- **More affirmations:**
 - Chosen generation
 - A royal priesthood
 - A holy nation
 - His own special people
 - Preachers of His praises
 - THE People of God
 - Possessors of His eternal mercy

Ephesians 2:11-13

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—

12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.