

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 28:16 | Exodus 19:5-6 | Ephesians 2:19-22

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 5.7.23

SUMMARY

In the greater context of his letter, Peter addresses the matter of suffering. In the first portion of this correspondence, he has reminded the church that they are chosen people with an eternal inheritance, and considering that, he has issued a call to holiness. As his letter progresses, Peter further details how Christians can move toward holiness by loving one another fervently (1:22-25). Accompanied by a call to put away malice, deceit, hypocrisy, and slander, he likens the church to a spiritual home (or a temple) built with “living stones,” with Jesus Christ as the “cornerstone” or foundation. Because this structure is built with living stones, it is continually growing or “being built up” to offer “spiritual sacrifices” (v. 5). Peter is making the connection between the old temple and this, the new temple, whereby God’s people are not only God’s dwelling place, but they are also priests who offer spiritual sacrifices in the way that they live—by loving one another. Peter continues by calling Christians “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation” (v. 9). These titles harken back to the Lord’s calling of Israel (Exodus 19:5-6), whom God called to represent himself by setting themselves apart amongst the nations. As Peter uses the expression, he applies what was once reserved for Israel to the mixed body of Jewish and Gentile believers. Peter calls the church to persevere in faithfulness as the Lord is using them as the means by which he makes himself known to the lost world around them. By his sovereign design, though the Lord could have used any means to bring his people from darkness to light, his principal method is people—his holy people—who proclaim the excellencies of the Lord and set themselves apart in their love for one another.

GROUP QUESTIONS

From the sermon or your direct reading of 1 Peter 1:13-25, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you.

What is holiness? What does it mean that God is holy? What does it mean that we should be holy as God is holy?

Does the idea of growing in holiness feel intimidating? What are some practical ways of growing in holiness? How can we actively participate in being made holy?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.