

## 1 Peter 2:7-12

### Precious or offensive (verses 7-8)

Christ is precious to those who believe since His precious blood has redeemed them. To those who don't believe, He has become a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.

- **Romans 9:30-33** What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is <sup>[a]</sup>by faith; <sup>31</sup> but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at *that* law. <sup>32</sup> Why? Because *they did not pursue it* <sup>[b]</sup>by faith, but as though *it were* <sup>[c]</sup>by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, <sup>33</sup> just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE <sup>[d]</sup>DISAPPOINTED."

The Jews were pursuing righteousness by the law and their own merit and the message of righteousness not coming from themselves, but rather trusting in Christ was offensive to them and they rejected it. The stone that the builders rejected became the cornerstone to which salvation was built.

*They stumbled because they were disobedient to the word and to this doom they were appointed. This speaks to the doctrine of predestination. This verse also shows the responsibility of man as well as the sovereignty of God. People are condemned because they disobey, but their disobedience does not occur apart from the sovereign will of God.*

- **Romans 9:22-23** What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? <sup>23</sup> And *He did so* to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,
- **Acts 13:48** When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of <sup>[a]</sup>the Lord; and as many as had been *appointed* to eternal life believed.
- **John 15:16** You did not choose Me but I chose you, and *appointed* you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.
- **Acts 17:26** and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

### A chosen people (verse 9)

Those who don't believe are appointed to doom, but those who believe are chosen by God to be a priesthood (offering spiritual sacrifices of ourselves and praise). The believer is God's own possession since they have been purchased and bought by God through His blood (**1 Peter 1:18-19**). The nation is holy which means to be separate or called out. Nothing can be holy unless the Holy declares it holy.

We are to declare His excellencies and praise Him for calling us out of darkness into light. Before Christ we are all in darkness, hate the Light, and refuse to come to the Light (**John 3:19-20**). In our fallen

unregenerate state, we will never come to the Light. How does one get to the Light? Those who come to the Light are called out of darkness into the Light by the sovereign effectual call of God. The same voice that declared “Let there be light” via a fiat in creation, calls to His elect who are in darkness “Let there be light.” Just as the light came into being at creation by the effectual call of God, the believer is called into light and transferred into the Kingdom of God. The light of God and His word now shines in our souls.

- o **2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
- o **Colossians 1:13** For He rescued us from the <sup>[b]</sup>domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of <sup>[c]</sup>His beloved Son.
- o **Numbers 6:24-26** The LORD bless you, and keep you;<sup>25</sup> The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;<sup>26</sup> The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.’

### **Not a people, now a people (verse 10)**

Peter is quoting **Hosea 1:10**, **Hosea 2:23** and **Romans 9:25-26**. In the book of Hosea, God was wanting to use Hosea to show a lesson in God’s mercy to Israel, so he has Hosea marry a prostitute who was flagrant in her infidelity. This prostitute was depicting Israel (10 Northern tribes of Israel) and its sinfulness, rebellion, scattering, and exile. It was as if Israel had become separated from God like the Gentiles and were not His people because of their rebellion. Hosea’s wife (Gomer) had three children and they received judgment from God. The 3<sup>rd</sup> child was named Lo-ammi. **Hosea 1:8-9** states “When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son. <sup>9</sup> And the LORD said, “Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not My people and I am not your God.” This is an example of divine rejection and judgment against the exiled northern tribes of Israel as they would be called “Not my people.” However, God would forgive and save a remnant of these people by His mercy. Paul is using this example in **Hosea in Romans 9** and Peter is using this example in **1 Peter 2:10** to show the extension of the text in Hosea to also be a reference to election, salvation, and grafting in of the Gentiles who were “Not God’s people”, but now are grafted into Israel via union with Christ through the faith in the promise (**Romans 9:6-7**). The Bible refers to the grafting in of the Gentile as the “mystery of the Gospel.” The Gentiles who were not God’s chosen nation will be shown mercy that is underserved and will be called “beloved” and Sons of the Living God” by sovereign mercy alone! Mercy has been extended to the Gentiles that we have no claim to or have done nothing to deserve. He shows mercy on whom He desires. His mercy and justification are the basis of our adoption to sonship and to be called sons of the living God.

We will finally see the final fulfillment of being His people in New Jerusalem (**Rev 21:1-4**).

### **Live Godly as exiles (verse 11-12)**

The original audience of this letter were exiles as they were not living in their true home. The language of the OT in regards to exiles was to describe Israel when they were in exile. However, all believers who make up the church both Jew and Gentile are being built up into a spiritual house for God. All of God’s people are living in exile on this earth as our true home is with Christ in the New Jerusalem!

Peter urges the exiles and us to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. This does include sexual sins but is not limited to only sins. Sexual sins have a special emphasis placed on them as

all other sins are outside the body. Sexual sins are against the person's own body. Our bodies are the temple of God where the Holy Spirit dwells. We are not our own, we have been bought with a price and are to glorify God in our body(1 Corinthians 6:12-20).

Peter also is addressing fleshly lusts. The word used in this verse for fleshly is the Greek word “sarx” which means flesh in its entirety. Fleshly lusts are those contrary to the Spirit which are found in the fallen man.

- **Galatians 5:16-25** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh <sup>[a]</sup>sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you <sup>[b]</sup>please. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. <sup>19</sup>Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: <sup>[c]</sup>immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, <sup>[d]</sup>factions, <sup>21</sup>envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>Now those who <sup>[e]</sup>belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.<sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also <sup>[f]</sup>walk by the Spirit.

The Christians to whom Peter is originally intending this letter custom to baseless charges and slander. These accusations can range from disloyalty to the emperor and ruling authorities, promoting unlawful customs, defamation of gods and trouble making. Peter encourages them to respond in a God honoring way so that some who would see their behavior, be convicted, see the truth of the gospel, and glorify God when He returns.

- o **Matthew 5:14-16** “You are the light of the world. A city set on a <sup>[a]</sup>hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup>nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a <sup>[b]</sup>basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup>Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

We can only let our light shine if He has called the light into our souls. To His people, He has made His face shine upon us and lifted His countenance upon us(**Numbers 6:24-26**) and the ultimate completion of Him shining His light upon and in us will be in our eternal home!

- o **Revelation 22:3-5** There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; <sup>4</sup>they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will no longer be *any* night; and they <sup>[a]</sup>will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.