

1 Peter 2:1-12

Introduction:

1. The apostle Peter wrote two of the New Testament "epistles" [letters].
2. In his first letter, Peter:
 - a. wrote to Christians who were facing great trials (1:6-7; 4:12)
 - b. identified the actual enemy of Christians (5:8)
 - c. showed how Satan is to be resisted (5:9)
 - d. recorded information, instructions, and admonitions designed to help Christians remain faithful to the Lord.
3. This lesson is a study of the information presented in 1 Peter 2:1-12.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1-3) PETER SHOWED HOW CHRISTIANS ARE TO GROW
 - A. Vs.1 begins with "*wherefore*," indicating that the following statements are based on information presented earlier.
 1. (1:13-16) Christians are to be holy because God is holy.
 2. (1:17-21) Christians have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ.
 3. (1:22-25) Christians have been purified as a result of being born again by God's Word.
 - B. Peter continued by showing Christians how to grow.
 1. (vs.1) The first step is to lay aside "*all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings [slander].*"
 2. These sins prohibit:
 - a. the love that the Lord requires of His followers (1:22)
 - b. spiritual growth.
 3. (vs.2) Having laid aside these sins, Christians are to "*desire the sincere milk of the word*" as "*newborn babes.*"
 - a. We are born again "*by the word of God*" (1:23).
 - b. God's Word also enables us to grow.
 4. (vs.3) These principles apply to those who "*have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*"
- II. (vs.4-10) PETER SHOWED HOW CHRISTIANS ARE TO SERVE AS PRIESTS
 - A. In his discussion, Peter referred to Christ as a "*stone.*"
 1. (vs.4) Christ is "*a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious.*"
 2. (vs.6) The fact that Christ is the "*chief corner stone*" was prophesied in Isaiah 28:16.
 3. Those who:
 - a. believe on Him will find Him to be precious and will not be disappointed (vs.6b-7a)
 - b. disobey Him will find Him to be "*a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence*" (vs.7b-8; Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42-44).
 - B. Peter described Christians as:
 1. "*lively stones*" who make up "*a spiritual house*" (vs.5a)
 2. "*a holy priesthood*" responsible for offering spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God by Christ (vs.5b)
 3. "*a chosen generation*" (vs.9a)
 4. "*a royal priesthood*" (vs.9b)
 5. "*a holy nation*" (vs.9c)
 6. "*a peculiar people*" (vs.9d)
 7. God's people who have obtained mercy and who show forth His praises (vs.9e-10).
 - C. Regardless of how men reacted to Jesus, He is the chief corner stone -- regardless of how men may react to His followers, we are to be living stones as well as holy and royal priests.
- III. (vs.11-12) PETER SHOWED HOW CHRISTIANS ARE TO BEHAVE BEFORE UNBELIEVERS
 - A. (vs.11) "*As strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.*"
 - B. (vs.12) Christians are to be honest before unbelievers, doing good works (Matthew 5:13-16).