



A CALL TO GROW IN CHRIST

1 Peter 2:1-8

August 11, 2024
Pastor Trevor Cooper

Good morning Church! When the world parades detestable and sinful lifestyles, we Christians are called to proclaim the Word of God? Followers of Jesus are living in this world, but not to be “of” this world... Peter writes to these churches who most likely had recent converts ready to have pure and nourishing teachings of the Word of God. Therefore we “put away” the things of this world — all malice (evil), deceit (lies), hypocrisy (false) and envy (covet) and cling to the rock — Jesus Christ. Learn more about this rock, stone later.

1 Peter 2:1-8

*“So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. **2** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— **3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. **4** As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **5** you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” **7** So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” **8** and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.”*

1. **Spiritual GROWTH** is Always Marked by a **CRAVING** and **DELIGHT** of God's Word. (v 1-3)

*“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; **2** but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.”*

Psalm 1:1-2

• Remember the **SOURCE** of Life.

*““For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, **11** so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” **Isaiah 55:10-11***

- Eliminate SIN from our Life (v 1)

“ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.” Titus 3:3

- Admit our NEED for God’s Truth (v 2)
- PURSUE Spiritual Growth (v 2)
- Survey our BLESSINGS (v 3)

2. Spiritual GROWTH Includes a CONTINUAL DRAWING Near to God. (v 4-8)

“ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

- CLINGING to Jesus Christ brings UNITY and LIFE.

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

- REJECTING Jesus Christ brings STUMBLING and JUDGMENT.

“therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’ Isaiah 28:16

God is consistent revealing to the world — the need to have faith in the God who saves. This is the way God knew it would be and planned it would be, and of course, is the way it turned out to be.

Salvation through Jesus Christ

*The single most important decision a person could ever make in their lifetime is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory" and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death". Yet through God's love, only "Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith"... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead YOU WILL BE SAVED. **The Bible says to REPENT of your sins. BELIEVE in Jesus receiving His forgiveness.** Then, identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being BAPTIZED.*