

Living Hope

Week 5 – God’s People

Transition: In last week’s text we saw that Jesus is the cornerstone of a spiritual temple (the Church) and that his followers are “living stones” he is using to build his church. For those who believe, Jesus is a precious stone. But for those who disbelieve, he is a stone of destruction.

Context: In this week’s text, Peter contrasts the position of those who receive Christ with the position of those who disbelieve. He shows that a person’s identity in Christ should affect the way they live and then illustrates how a believer’s conduct can affect the lost.

Opening Questions:

- What is one thing you are passionate for and enjoy telling others about? What makes you passionate for this one thing?
- Name a position/title you have held in life that you enjoyed. What made it enjoyable?

Scripture/Storying: 1 Peter 2:9-12

Discipleship Questions:

- How does 2:9 connect with 2:8? Why do you need a consistent reminder of your position in Christ? How are you personally reminding yourself of your identity in Jesus?
- The concept called the “priesthood of the believer” means that every believer is a priest and has direct access to God through the sacrificial work of Christ. In other words, Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. What causes some believers to think that others (like a pastor, elders, or other church leaders), have more access to God than they do? How will you overcome the tendency to think that some Christ followers have more access to God than other Christ followers?
- What prompts you to proclaim the excellencies of God? Why is proclaiming God’s excellencies meaningful to you? Why should you proclaim his excellencies even when life is hard? How will you proclaim God’s excellencies in your day-to-day routine?
- Describe the change that occurred in your life when God, in his mercy, called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Why is it important that you remember this truth? How will you keep this truth before you? How will you begin sharing your life change story with others who need to hear it?
- In verses 11-12, Peter shows that **who we are** (vv9-10) should affect **how we live**. Why should the conduct of your life be consistent with the position you claim to have in Christ? How will you adjust your conduct to be more consistent with who you say you are?
- Share a time when your conduct had a lasting impact on someone who was not a Christ follower. What did you learn from the experience? How will what you learned from this encounter affect your future encounters with those who don’t follow Jesus yet?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: Heading Home Ministries: A local prison ministry several Providence members are involved in.

- Pray for a good turnout as they change the class to meet on Tuesdays.
- Pray as they are in the process of getting materials approved.
- Pray for the continued growth of their relationships with prison staff.