

1 Peter 2:1-10

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Devotional

NKJV Footnotes The Christian's new life can't grow unless sins are renounced. When that purging takes place of the wickedness from within us, then the Word does its work. Spiritual growth is always marked by a craving for and a delight in God's Word with the intensity with which a baby craves milk, remembering his life source, eliminating sin from his life, admitting his need for God's truth, pursuing spiritual growth and surveying his blessings. In salvation, all believers experience how gracious the Lord is to those who trust Him, compelling believers to seek more of that grace in pursuing His Word. Remaining in Christ's presence with intimate fellowship. Christ the cornerstone and stone of stumbling is alive from the dead and has a living relationship with saved humanity. The messianic credentials of Jesus were examined by the false religious leaders of Israel and contemptuously rejected. But Jesus Christ was God's precious and elect Son, ultimately authenticated through His resurrection from the dead. Christians are so closely identified and united with Christ that the very life that exists in Christ exists in them also. Metaphorically, God is building a spiritual house, putting all believers in place, integrating each one with others, and each one with the life of Christ. Old and New Testament priests/believers share a number of characteristics. Priesthood is an elect privilege, priests are cleansed of sins, priests are clothed for service, priests are anointed for service, priests are prepared for service, priests are ordained to obedience, priests are to honor the Word of God, priests are to walk with God, priests are to impact sinners and priests are messengers of God. The main privilege of a priest, is to have access to God. Spiritual sacrifices mean God-honoring works done because of Christ under the direction of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of the Word of God. These include, offering the strength of one's body to God, praising God, doing good, sharing one's resources, bringing people to Christ and sacrificing one's desires for the good of others and praying.