

SERMON TEXT: 1Peter 2:1–10

SERMON TITLE: Prayer: a Spiritual Sacrifice of Living Stones

Main idea: In prayer, we are to offer our whole selves unto God through Christ, depending upon Him and calling upon Him to do according to all His holy Word.

¹ Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

⁴ Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.”

⁷ 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,”*

⁸ and

*“A stone of stumbling
And a rock of offense.”*

They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

⁹ 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; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Introduction

The purpose of our redemption: public worship and spiritual sacrifices that are offered through Christ, flowing from His once-for-all sacrifice

1. **Preparation for prayer: a sanctified, and sanctifying, life. v1–3**
 - a. Physical preparation. Prayer is hard physical and mental work!
 - b. Spiritual preparation. The primary focus of these verses (cf. 1Cor 5:7–8)
2. **Offering ourselves in prayer: spiritual sacrifices (v4–5) who proclaim praise by being objects of mercy (v9–10)**
3. **How to pray: through Jesus Christ**
 - a. Not bringing anything else but ourselves in Him, not thinking that we will be heard for how good we are or how “well” we pray
 - b. With confidence, cf. 1Jn 5:14
 - c. According to His will, cf. 1Jn 5:14 ... formed by His Word (cf. LC 183 and its referent Scriptures)
We are to pray for the whole church of Christ upon earth; for magistrates, and ministers; for ourselves, our brethren, yea, our enemies; and for all sorts of men living, or that shall live hereafter; but not for the dead, nor for those that are known to have sinned the sin unto death.
 - d. With Christ-produced, Christ-like sincerity and intensity, cf. Heb 4:14–5:11

Conclusion

We have much to think on, repent of, and prepare for in order to worship well in public prayer!