

“Spiritual Stuff”  
Text: 1Peter 2:4,5  
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Introduction. You remember Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night wanting to talk about God. He got a hard lesson for a ruler of the Jews. The Carnal man will never get it. It will seem foolishness to him, or he will take some manufactured imitation, or invent his own “spirituality.” The hardest are those who are blind but think they can see. This was Nicodemus’ problem. He wanted to talk about the miracles that Jesus was doing for he knew that no man could do those miracles if God was not with him. John 3. Nicodemus wanted to talk about the miracles, the things he could see, in order to talk about the things you cannot see: the kingdom of God. Jesus refused that conversation abruptly, “I truly say to you, Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus, you can see stuff. You can see the Temple, the tombs of the prophets, the miracles, Me and my disciples, but you can neither see nor enter the kingdom of Heaven unless you are born again. Both God and Heaven are invisible to you, and whether you call it the kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven [I can demonstrate that they mean the same thing], they are invisible to you unless you are born again.

This offended Nicodemus, as it would have offended any good Son of Abraham. Wasn’t the Son of David coming, to reign from Jerusalem over the whole world, and wouldn’t He bring in obedience to the Ten Commandments and the Jews take part in this great kingdom. Besides, how can a man enter into His mother’s womb and be born again. I was born of Abraham’s seed that that fact secures the kingdom for me.

But Jesus spoke to Nicodemus’s unspoken assumptions: The kingdom you long for is seen of men by the eye of the flesh. My kingdom is not of this world and cannot be seen by the eye of the flesh. That which is born of the

flesh is flesh; that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be surprised when I say to you, Ye must be born again.” Nicodemus didn’t understand it then, but he understood later.

Audio begins.

Years ago, I was speaking to a young woman who was rather proud of her Jewish ancestry. She was a professing Christian, but of the dispensational variety that looked for an earthly visible kingdom with Christ ruling from Jerusalem. “What about all the specific promises?” she asked, just like they do today. I replied, “They are spiritual in nature, that is made clear in the New Testament.” I will never forget her answer which was something like this, “What if I promised my children cookies, but when they came for them, I said, ‘But I meant spiritual cookies.’” She showed that she thought that “spiritual” meant “imaginary.” Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Great systems are built by spiritual power and those that offer to idols offer to devils, Paul says. The ungodly are taken captive by Satan at His will and He moves to sins that are seen, but the spiritual power is not seen. Our major conflict is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Eph 6:12

Spiritual stuff can be good or bad, depending upon the power than moves it. It can be darkness pretending to be light, but the light cannot be anything but light and is revealed by the Scriptures. The entrance of Thy word giveth light. Today I want to speak of some Spiritual things that are set forth by Peter.

Last week we saw that because of the things in Chapter One, we are called to hunger for Spiritual Food, the pure milk of the Word, the Scriptures, so we can grow as Christians. Verse three says that we can do this if we have found that the Lord is gracious. For all of Christianity depends upon the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

# I. Jesus Christ is a Spiritual Stone, Chosen of God and Precious.

## A. This is a clear reference to Isaiah 28:16

1. Drunkenness and filth was everywhere.
2. God's word had been line upon line, precept upon precept....
3. God would speak to them with other tongues [Babylonians]

## B. But He would not leave them without a temple: He would lay a cornerstone.16-20 He would take away all their excuses.

## C. Jesus is this chief cornerstone:

1. Psalm 118:22 19 ¶ Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD:20 This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter. 21 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. 22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. 23 This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. 24 This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
2. Isaiah 28: 8 portions: For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.9 ¶ Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people... 13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. ...16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. 17 Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

3. Matt. 21: 39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. 40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? 41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. **42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures,** The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.
4. See Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
5. 1 Peter 2:6-7; Eph 2:20 Other places: Romans 9:33;

## II. The People of God are a Spiritual People. 1Peter 2:9, 10

- A. You are a lively stone. In a Spiritual House A living stone. Born Again, you have received spiritual life. You cannot understand these things unless you are born again. Illustration: Elijah and the burning bush; Moses saw him who was invisible. Paul wrote to Timothy how to bring order to the church:

1Tim 3:14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: 15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. 16 And without

controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

B. A royal priesthood, peculiar, holy nation, chosen generation what a wealth of meaning there is here.

I spoke last week of Heb. 10: the new and living way into the Temple of God, and this reinforces what I say today. Heb. 10:18:

18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. 19 ¶ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

III. Spiritual Sacrifices. Not of bulls and goats.

A. We offer up our bodies as living sacrifices. Romans 12:1,2

B. We offer up ourselves as not belonging to ourselves.

Colossians 3:12-15 This put meat on the bones: ¶ Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in

your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

## **Spiritual Sacrifices**

Php 2:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

Php 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

Heb 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Heb 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.