

Sunday, May 10, 2026 – Sixth Sunday of Easter - 1 Peter 2-4

1: 1 – To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

Chapter 2 – Living Stones/Chosen People

2-3 - Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The apostle Paul and the author to Hebrews criticize their readers for still needing milk.

1 Corinthians 3: 2 – I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are not ready.

Hebrews 5: 12 – For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food.

There is nothing wrong with an infant needing milk and not being able to eat solid food.

But if an older person has not grown beyond the needs of an infant, something is wrong.

Where would you place yourself in your growth as a follower of Jesus?

Infant – toddler – child – preadolescent – teenager – young adult – adult – senior

Where are you at one level? Where are you at another level?

4-5 - Come to him, a living stone, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Not just stones but living stones –

The images for the church in the Bible are always living images – body of Christ, bride of Christ, flock, branches connected to the vine

6 - It stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious."

7 – To you who believe he is precious, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner."

Peter is quoting Psalm 118: 22

Psalm 118: 23 - This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Jesus quotes this Psalm in Matthew 21: 42 after the parable of the unfaithful tenants

Peter quotes this Psalm in Acts 4: 11, when he is speaking before the rulers, elders, and scribes

Acts 4: 12 - There is salvation in no one else.

9 - You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 - Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Cf. Hosea 1: 4-5 – Name him Jezreel, for I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

1: 6 – Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them.

1: 9 – Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people and I am not your God.

2: 23 – I will have pity on Lo-ruhamah, and I will say to Lo-ammi, "You are my people," and he shall say, "You are my God."

Living as Servants of God

11-12 - Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God.

13-15 - For the Lord's sake be subject to every human authority, whether to the emperor as supreme or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish.

Chapter 3 - Suffering for Doing Right – Following Christ's Example

15-16 - Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

17-20 - It is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey.

Chapter 4 - Stewards of God's Grace

3-4 - You have already spent enough time in doing what the gentiles like to do, living in debauchery, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation.

7 - The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers.

10-11 - Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

Cf. Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4

Suffering as a Christian

12-13 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.

15-16 - Let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name.

Suffering –

Is to be expected

Calls us to follow Christ's example and share in His sufferings

Tests, strengthens, and purifies our faith

Shows that our faith is genuine

Gives us an opportunity to give witness to and encourage others