

Additional Notes:

Here is the spring where waters flow,
To quench our heat of sin:
Here is the tree where truth doth grow,
To lead our lives therein:
Here is the judge that stints the strife,
When men's devices fail:
Here is the bread that feeds the life
That death cannot assail.
The tidings of salvation dear,
Comes to our ears from hence:
The fortress of our faith is here,
And shield of our defense.
Then be not like the swine that hath
A pearl at his desire,
And takes more pleasure from the trough
And wallowing in the mire.
Read not this book in any case,
But with a single eye:
Read not but first desire God's grace,
To understand thereby.
Pray still in faith with this respect,
To bear good fruit therein,
That knowledge may bring this effect,
To mortify your sin.
Then happy you shall be in all your life,
What so to you befalls:
Yes, double happy you shall be,
When God by death you calls.
(From the first Bible printed in Scotland—1576)

Adult Sunday School (1 Peter) Lesson 4

1 Pet 2:4-12: A Chosen Generation

11 May 2025

Introduction

- Indicatives in 1:3-12 followed by imperatives in 1:13 onwards
- Indicatives in 2:4-10 followed by imperatives in 2:11 onwards

1. The Living Stone (v4-8)

- Definitions
 - ‘to whom coming’ – a continual coming by faith
 - ‘disallowed’ – rejected after examination
 - ‘chief corner stone’ – corner head stone
- Man’s assessment of the stone vs God’s assessment (Isa 42:1)
- Four effects of coming to Christ, the Living Stone
- The believing response and result
 - Those who believe shall not be put to shame
 - Those who believe shall share in the honour of the preciousness of Christ
- The unbelieving response and result
 - Man’s unbelief cannot frustrate the purpose and testimony of God
 - Man’s unbelief is his own undoing (Isa 8:14,15)
 - Man’s unbelief is manifested by His resolute disobedience to the Word
 - There is an appointed/inescapable relationship between unbelief and self-destruction (Matt 21:44)

2. A Before and After Picture of the People of God (v9-10)

- The believer's corporate identity
 - A Chosen Generation
 - A Royal Priesthood
 - An Holy Nation
 - A People for God's Own Possession
- How God regarded them
 - From 'no people' to 'people of God' (Hos 2:23; Jer 24:7)
- How God treated them
 - From 'no mercy' to 'now hath obtained mercy' (Hos 2:23; 1 Tim 1:16; 1 Pet 1:3)

3. As Strangers and Pilgrims (v11-12)

- A powerful appeal to proper conduct before an unbelieving world
- Manner of appeal
 - Unashamedly affectionate
 - Graciously urgent
- Substance of appeal
 - Reminder of their true identity
 - A negative duty
 - A positive duty

- A motivation for living in such a way
 - What the ungodly are saying (Jn 18:30)
 - What the ungodly are seeing (cf. 1 Pet 3:2)
 - What the ungodly may do (Jb 7:18; Isa 10:3; Gen 50:24,25; Acts 15:14; Matt 5:16)