**1 Peter: We are Living Stones—**

**Choice and Precious**

*1 Peter 2:4-5*

**Context**

**1 Peter 2:4-5**—*And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,****5****you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

As Christians, we cannot fathom the depths of the riches we have as a result of our union with Christ. We are of all people, blessed beyond measure. To be united with Him has not only unique temporal blessings but eternal implications.

**Ephesians 1:3**—*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Cf* ***Ephesians 1:4-14****)*

In this section of Scripture, Peter starts a new line of thought: ”from the idea of babes who merely receive the beneficent care of the Lord, Peter advances, with imagery that is entirely different, to living stones in a spiritual house, yea, to holy royal priests who render acceptable sacrifice.”[[1]](#footnote-2)

**Blessings of our union with Christ**

1. **We came to Him**

**1 Peter 2:4**—*And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,*

1. *Coming to Him*
	1. Our initiation into this union comes because we came to Him

**Matthew 11:28-29***—Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.****29****Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

* 1. The coming is a result of the Father giving

**John 6:35, 37, 44, 65***—Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst…****37****All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out…****44****No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day…* ***65****And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”*

* 1. The coming isn’t merely drawing close, but an intense intimate abiding or drawing near

**Hebrews 4:16***—Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**Hebrews 7:25***—Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

**Hebrews 10:22***—let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

**Hebrews 11:6***—And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

1. We come to Him *as a living stone*
	1. Living stone metaphor
		1. Used as a “building stone”
		2. A rock or a carved precious stone

**Deuteronomy 32:3-4**—(the Song of Moses)—“*For I proclaim the name of the Lord; Ascribe greatness to our God!* ***4****“The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.*

* 1. Jesus is the Rock, **v8**

**1 Corinthians 10:4**—(Our fathers)…*and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.*

* 1. Christ is the cornerstone of the church He is building
	2. Not simply a stone, but a *living stone—*to live, breathe, be among the living (not lifeless, not dead)[[2]](#footnote-3)
1. *Rejected by men*
	1. Jesus was rejected by the Jewish religious authorities

**John 1:11**—*He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.*

* + 1. They tested Him

**Matthew 16:1**—The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.

* + 1. And found Him to be lacking

**John 19:7, 12, 15**—*The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God.”…****12****As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out saying, “If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar.”…****15****So they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate \*said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”*

**Matthew 26:63-66**—*But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.”****64****Jesus \*said to him, “You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”* ***65****Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy;****66****what do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death!”*

* + 1. It was unthinkable for Christ to be the cornerstone of God’s kingdom

**Psalm 118:22***—The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.*

* 1. *Has been rejected*
		1. There is an ongoing rejection of Christ

**Hebrews 10:26-27**—*For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,****27****but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.*

* + 1. “rejected having been examined or tested”
1. Although rejected by unbelievers, He *is choice and precious in the sight of God*
	1. The measurement of Christ’s sufficiency isn’t mans, but Gods
	2. God’s standard of holiness and divine perfection is affirmed by God Himself

**Matthew 3:17**—*and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”*

**John 12:*28****—Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came out of heaven: “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”*

* 1. Other passages:

**Isaiah 42:1***—“Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.*

**Acts 2:23-24***—this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.****24****But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.*

**Galatians 4:4***—But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,****5****so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

**Ephesians 1:22***—**And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,*

**Hebrews 3:1-3***—**Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;****2****He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house.****3****For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house.*

* 1. *Choice* (eklektos)—chosen (7x), elect (16x)[[3]](#footnote-4); picked out
	2. *Precious* (entimon)—costly, highly prized, rare; dear, more honorable, held in honor, prized[[4]](#footnote-5)

**1 Peter 1:18-19**—*knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,****19****but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.*

* 1. Christ is the perfect, living cornerstone

**Isaiah 28:16***—Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed.*

**1 Corinthians 3:11***—For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

**Ephesians 2:20**—*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone*

* 1. Peter’s messages in Acts communicates the same idea

**Acts 2:22***—Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know*

**Acts 2:32***—This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.*

**Acts 4:10-11***—let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health.****11****He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone.*

**Acts 5:30***—The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.*

**Acts 10:38-39**—*You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.****39****We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the and of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross*.

1. Without coming to this Living Stone, there is no salvation nor the blessings that accompany it
2. **He made us living stones**

**1 Peter 2:5a**—*you also, as living stones…*

1. We too become living stones because of our association with Christ

“As ‘living stones’ we are part of a great spiritual edifice being constructed by God. Every brick or stone of the structure is need but not one manifests its true value standing by itself.”[[5]](#footnote-6)

* 1. We have union with Christ
	2. We share His life

**John 17:21, 23***—That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me…****23****I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.*

**2 Corinthians 3:18***—But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

**Ephesians 4:15-16***—but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,* ***16****from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

**1 John 3:2***—Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*

* 1. We have the eternal life of Christ in us

**Colossians 3:3-4***—For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.****4****When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*

**Galatians 2:20***—I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

**Ephesians 2:19-22***—So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,****20****having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,****21****in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,****22****in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*

1. Because we are now living stones, we have access to the spiritual power that resides in Him

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5***—And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.****2****For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.****3****I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,****4****and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,****5****so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.*

**Philippians 4:13***—**I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

**2 Timothy 2:21***—Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.*

**John 15:4-11***—Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.****5****I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.****6****If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.****7****If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.****8****My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.****9****Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.****10****If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.****11****These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

1. **We are holy priests**

**1 Peter 2:5b**—*…are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood*

1. As priests, we have access to God

**Psalms 65:4***—How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple.*

**John 10:9***—I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*

**Romans 5:1-2***—Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,****2****through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

**Ephesians 2:18***—for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.*

**3:12***—in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.*

**Hebrews 4:16***—Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**10:19-22***—Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,****20****by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,****21****and since we have a great priest over the house of God,****22****let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

1. The unbeliever does not

**Proverbs 12:2**—*A good man will obtain favor from the Lord, But He will condemn a man who devises evil.*

**Colossians 1:21**—*And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds*

* 1. They are outside God’s protection

**Revelations 22:14-15***—Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.****15****Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.*

* 1. They are far off

**Act 2:39***—“For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”*

**Ephesians 2:13***—But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

1. In the Old Covenant, the Temple represented God’s presence; in the New Covenant, believers are *being built up as a spiritual house*, v**5**
	1. This is a superior and eternal abode
	2. It surpasses any material building

**Ephesians 2:20-21***—*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, **21**in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

**Hebrews 31:1-6***—*Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High *Priest of our confession;****2****He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house.****3****For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house.****4****For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.****5****Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later;****6****but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.*

**1 Timothy 3:15***—but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*

1. **We offer up spiritual sacrifices**

**1 Peter 2:5c**—*…to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

**Conclusion**

These blessings become ours upon our coming to Him at our new birth. We have access to the very presence of God as priests who offer spiritual sacrifices pleasing to God. May the Lord continue to use our sacrifices of praise and spiritual service to always give Him honor and advance his kingdom—on earth as it is in heaven.

**Homework:** Memorize **1 Peter 2:4-5**

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan*, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter*

R.C.H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude*

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter*

# John MacArthur, The Believer’s Privileges, Part 1: Union, January 15, 1989, [www.gty.org](http://www.gty.org)

Jerome H Smith*, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge*

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1. Lenski, 82 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Outline of Biblical usage, blueletterbible.org [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Strong’s G1588 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Strong’s G1784 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. De Hann, 51 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)