**1 Peter: You were not, and now you are**

*1 Peter 2:10*

**Context**

**1 Peter 2:10***—for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

The believer can do nothing but marvel at the glorious nature of the salvation afforded him through Christ. The thought of a holy, righteous, eternal God who needs nothing yet chooses to set His affections on wretched sinners to purchase for Himself a people group to be in His presence for all of eternity is a wonderful thing. Understanding from where we came, and subsequently where He has placed us, draws us to greater and greater worship of the One who has done it. When we understand the extent of that chasm, we are humbled and gain hearts of immense gratitude.

**Colossians 1:13***—For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son*

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11***—Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,****10****nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.****11****Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

**Acts 26:18***—to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.*

**The power of a transformed life**

1. **You were once not a people**
2. There was/is a time where God’s people would not receive His mercy
   1. Reference to an OT analogy (Hosea and Gomer)

**Hosea 1:2-10***—When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the Lord.”****3****So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.****4****And the Lord said to him, “Name him Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.****5****On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.”* **6***Then she conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. And the Lord said to him, “Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have compassion on the house of Israel, that I would ever forgive them.****7****But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by the Lord their God, and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses or horsemen.”* ***8****When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son.****9****And the Lord said, “Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not My people and I am not your God.”* ***10****Yet the number of the sons of Israel Will be like the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered; And in the place Where it is said to them, “You are not My people,” It will be said to them, “You are the sons of the living God.”*

* 1. Hosea wrote around 782 BC
  2. The fulfillment of this prophecy came in 722 BC with the fall of the northern kingdom by the hand of Assyrians
  3. Moses wrote of the same thing

**Deuteronomy 32:21***—‘They have made Me jealous with what is not God; They have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation*

1. The prophecy also includes a restoration for “*the sons of Israel*” (**v10**)during the millennium reign

**Isaiah 61:4-6***—Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, They will raise up the former devastations; And they will repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.* ***5****Strangers will stand and pasture your flocks, And foreigners will be your farmers and your vinedressers.* ***6****But you will be called the priests of the Lord; You will be spoken of as ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, And in their riches you will boast.*

**Jeremiah 16:14-15***—“Therefore behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when it will no longer be said, ‘As the Lord lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’****15****but, ‘As the Lord lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.’ For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers.*

**Ezekiel 37:20-23***—The sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.****21****Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;****22****and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms.****23****They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their]dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God.*

**Romans 11:26-27***—and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”* ***27****“This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”*

1. They were sheep without a shepherd
2. All who are far from God and Christ are a non-people spiritually[[1]](#footnote-2)
3. **But now you are a people**
4. Only those who come to Christ (**v4**) are a real people
   1. God’s people
   2. He being our King, Savior, Protector, Provider, Benefactor[[2]](#footnote-3)
5. Peter is applying the principle here to the church (particularly the Gentile members)

**Hosea 2:23***—“I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they will say, ‘You are my God!’”*

**Romans 9:22-26***—What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?* ***23****And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,****24****even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.****25****As He says also in Hosea, “I will call those who were not My people, ‘My people,’ And her who was not beloved, ‘beloved.’”* ***26****“And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, ‘you are not My people,’ There they shall be called sons of the living God.”*

* 1. The Gentile world was foreign to God’s mercy—*you once were not a people*

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

**Matthew 15:22-28**—*And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed.”****23****But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, “Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us.”****24****But He answered and said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”****25****But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”****26****And He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”****27****But she said, “Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”****28****Then Jesus said to her, “O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed at once.*

1. **You had not received mercy**
2. Mercy is synonymous with compassion
3. Have compassion; have pity on; obtain mercy[[3]](#footnote-4)
4. It involved God’s sympathy with sinners’ misery and His withholding from them the just punishment for their sins[[4]](#footnote-5)
   1. God’s mercy is seen in several ways
      1. General (common) mercy—evident in all His providence to all creation

**Psalm 36:7***—How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.*

**65:9-13***—You visit the earth and cause it to overflow; You greatly enrich it; The stream of God is full of water; You prepare their grain, for thus You prepare the earth.* ***10****You water its furrows abundantly, You settle its ridges, You soften it with showers, You bless its growth.* ***11****You have crowned the year with Your bounty, And Your paths drip with fatness.* ***12****The pastures of the wilderness drip, And the hills gird themselves with rejoicing.* ***13****The meadows are clothed with flocks And the valleys are covered with grain; They shout for joy, yes, they sing.*

**Matthew 5:44-45***—so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

**Acts 14:14-17***—But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out****15****and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.****16****In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways;****17****and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”*

**Romans 1:20***—For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*

* + - 1. He has pity on them
      2. He is patient
      3. He has forbearing compassion

**Psalm 86:15***—But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.*

**Psalms 103:8***—The Lord is compassionate and gracious Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.*

**2 Peter 3:9***—The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

* + - 1. He has every right to destroy them because of their rejection and sin
      2. Yet, because of His nature, He is choosing to not unleash all the consequences deserved
      3. That said, His patience will not endure forever

**Matthew 24:4-22***—And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.* ***5****For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many.****6****You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.****7****For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.****8****But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.* ***9****“Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.****10****At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.****11****Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.****12****Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.****13****But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.****14****This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.* ***15****“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),****16****then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.****17****Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.****18****Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.****19****But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!****20****But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.****21****For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.****22****Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

**Revelation 6:7-8***—When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come.”****8****I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.*

*(***Revelation 8:7-9:19, et al***)*

**Isaiah 27:11***—When its limbs are dry, they are broken off; Women come and make a fire with them,  
For they are not a people of discernment,  
Therefore their Maker will not have compassion on them. And their Creator will not be gracious to them.*

* + 1. Divine (special or “prevenient”) mercy—saving mercy toward His elect
       1. Believers are recipients of God’s common mercy as well as His special mercy

**Daniel 7:18***—But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’*

**John 14:2***—In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.*

**2 Timothy 4:8***—in the future there is laid up for me [Paul] the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

1. **But now, you have received mercy**
2. There is nothing to commend us to God

**Isaiah 64:6***—For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.*

1. The elect are no more deserving than anyone else
2. It is entirely His doing
   1. All by His sovereign grace and His loving purposes

**Ephesians 1:11**—also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

**2 Timothy 1:9***—who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,*

**Titus 1:2***—in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago*

**Romans 9:15-16***—For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”****16****So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.*

* 1. He rescues us from judgment in hell
  2. He grants us an eternal inheritance in heaven

**1 Peter 1:4**—*to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you*

**Colossians 1:12**—*giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.*

**3:24**—*knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*

**Conclusion**

We serve a God who is incredibly merciful. Paul tells us that He is the Father of all mercies. As the recipients of His undeserved mercy, we bless Him—both now and for all of eternity.

**2 Corinthians 1:3***—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort*

**Titus 3:5***—He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit*

In conclusion, God’s salvation has brought you new life, and He expects you to grow. To do so, you must renounce sin, feed on God’s Word, and accept your place and responsibility in God’s plan. Determine with God’s help to bring honor to His name.[[5]](#footnote-6)

**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 6: Separation, Possession, Illumination…, Feb 19, 1989, [www.gty.org](http://www.gty.org)

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1. Lenski, 104 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Strong’s G1653 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. MacArthur Commentary, 132. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. DeHaan, 54. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)