

**SPIRITUAL PROGRESS, PRIVILEGES, AND STANDING****I. INTRODUCTION.** A. Scripture text: **1Peter 2:1-10.**

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, [2] like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, [3] if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. [4] And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but 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. [6] For *this* is contained in Scripture: “BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER *stone*, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” [7] This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*,” [8] and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed. [9] But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God’s* OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; [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.

B. As was the theme in chapter 1, Peter continues to extol the greatness of the blessings of being a Xian in chapter 2. Tonight we will see that in the church there is spiritual progress, spiritual privileges, and a spiritual standing.

C. My (remaining) schedule:

4. Jul. 12 Submission to Authorities and Masters (1Pet. 2:11-25).
5. Jul. 19 Submission in the Home and Church (1Pet. 3:1-17).
6. Aug. 2 The Victory Over Suffering (1Pet. 3:18-4:19).
7. Aug. 9 The Victory Over Satan (1Pet. 5).
8. Aug. 16 The True Knowledge of Life (2Pet. 1:1-15).
9. Aug. 23 True Knowledge Revealed (2Pet. 1:16-2:22).
10. Aug. 30 The Safeguards of True Knowledge (2Pet. 3:1-18).

**II. SPIRITUAL PROGRESS (1Pet. 2:1-3).** A. The text: 1Pet. 2:1-3.

Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, [2] like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, [3] if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

B. Things to put off (literally to strip off one’s clothes):

1. Malice -- active ill-will or hatred.
2. Deceitfulness -- two-facedness, trickery or conscious deception.
3. Hypocrisies -- pretense, sham, or acting. To have an outward show with a motive to deceive.
4. Envy -- to feel ill will against another’s good fortune.
5. Slander -- to talk down to or about another.

C. These are the old wrappings that need to come off.

 D. Things to yearn (long) for:

1. Desire -- a longing for the word.
2. Sincerity -- without guile, or trickery (literally to be without wax).
3. Growth -- the gradual result of proper nurture.
4. Tasted -- experience combined with pleasure.

E. Two entirely different lists!

### III. SPIRITUAL PRIVILEGES (1Pet. 2:4-6).

-  A. The text: 1Pet. 2:4-6.  
And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but 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. [6] For this is contained in Scripture: “BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”
- B. Three things that illustrate the spiritual privileges of being in the church:
1. Part of a spiritual house (1Tim. 3:15).  
but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may 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.
  2. A living stone, joined with the ‘lithos’ stone.
  3. Priests unto God, able to offer acceptable sacrifices (Rev. 1:5).  
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood,
- C. A ‘lithos’ stone is a shaped or shaved stone that has a specific use. Both X and Xians are referred to in this text as being ‘lithos’ stones.
-  D. Four things concerning the Stone (Jesus):
1. Chosen by God but rejected by men (Psa. 118:22).  
The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.
  2. A tried stone, a sure foundation.
  3. A sanctuary for believers and a rock of offense for non-believers (Isa. 8:13,14).
  4. An indestructible stone or foundation.
- E. The great assurance for the believer is that “he that believes on Him shall not be disappointed.”

### IV. SPIRITUAL STANDING (1Pet. 2:7-10).

-  A. The text: 1Pet. 2:7-10.  
This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,” [8] and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. [9] But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; [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.
- B. Some contrasts:
1. Xians are precious as opposed to those who are disobedient.
  2. Jesus was rejected by the builders, but was chosen by God.
-  C. The church as God sees it:
1. A chosen generation -- a group of people with a common descent.
  2. A royal priesthood -- able to perform service to the king.
  3. A holy nation -- a tribe set apart, to be in contrast with the world (see 1Pet. 1:14-16).
  4. A peculiar people -- marked as to establish ownership.
  5. Proclaiming praise -- Xians have a mission!

### V. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

-  A. To leave the Xian faith means the giving up of far too much!
- B. Xians, whether being persecuted or not, must appreciate their spiritual progress, privileges, and standing.
- C. Become a Xian to enjoy these blessings and as a Xian not quit and forfeit them!
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.