

1ST & 2ND PETER
STUDY GUIDE
LESSON THREE – 1 PETER 2:1-10

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First Peter chapter 2 can be divided into three parts with the third section continuing through chapter 4 verse 11. The first is an exhortation to lay aside our self-centered lives and receive the simple and plain truths of the word of God with the eagerness of a child. The second is to remind us of the blessings we have as Christians while so many others stumble over the truths that can set them free. The third division is introduced at the end of 2:9, “*So that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*” We will see next week that the last half of chapter 2 begins a long section of practical application to everyday life. We will learn to be like Christ, lights in a dark world.

In this week’s study, Peter uses imagery of newborn babies, living stones, and a royal priesthood to show the growth of a Christian. Our faith grows from weak and immature, to being strong as we are built up with other believers, and finally to being powerful witnesses of God’s excellencies. As we believe in Him we will not be disappointed!

1) **Read 1 Peter 2:1-3**

a) Verse 1 begins with the word “therefore” since Peter was connecting his last thought in chapter 1 to his new thoughts in chapter 2. (Remember that the original letter was not broken up into chapters and verses.) Read 1 Peter 1:22-25 and write what you think is the main reason we can be motivated to “*rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.*” (NIV) The answers may vary within your discussion group.

b) The definitions of the following words from verse 1 are given below. For each word, write words that describe the opposite (antonyms). As you write the antonyms, pray about how you can practice these in your relationships this week.

i) **Malice** – *desire to inflict injury, harm, or suffering on another, either because of a hostile impulse or out of deep-seated meanness*

ii) **Deceit** – *lying, cheating, distorting the truth, misleading, fraud*

iii) **Hypocrisy** – *a pretense of having a virtuous character, moral or religious beliefs or principles that one does not really possess. The Greek word means “to act on the stage, play a part, pretend.”*

iv) **Envy** – *jealousy, discontentment, or covetous*

v) **Slander** – *a malicious, false, and defamatory statement or report designed to hurt or destroy*

c) From verse 1, what are we called to do with these negative attitudes in our lives?

d) Verse 2 encourages us to long for the word like a newborn longs for milk. Do you crave God’s word? What will happen to us as we read God’s word?

Note: *There are three stages in Bible reading: the cod-liver-oil stage when you take it like medicine; the shredded-wheat stage when it’s nourishing but dry; and the peaches-and-cream stage when it’s consumed with passion and pleasure.* Elizabeth George (A Woman After God’s Own Heart, copyright 1997/2006 by Harvest House Publishers, pp 240)

e) Read verse 3, then verse 2, then verse 1. What motivates us to long for the word which gives us the power to put aside wrong thinking?

2) **Read 1 Peter 2:4-5**

a) Peter uses beautiful imagery in these verses. How is Christ described?

b) We are also described as living stones. For what purposes are we being built up?

c) Look up the following verses and write the sacrifices described in each verse.

i) Ps 51:17

ii) Rom 12:1

iii) Heb 13:15-16

3) **Read 1 Peter 2:6-8**

Note: Jesus is referred to as a choice and precious cornerstone. The cornerstone was a large stone placed in the corner of the foundation of a building. It joined the first two walls together therefore determining the position of the entire structure. This is symbolic of Christ joining the believing Jews and Gentiles together as His church. The cornerstone was a carefully chosen and tried stone meaning that there were no flaws or crevices. It was examined and tested for strength and character. Jesus was the precious stone chosen by God. He was thoroughly tested by Satan for 40 days before He began His ministry.

- a) Peter quoted the Isaiah 28:16 and Psalms 118:22 in this passage. Both of these verses are prophecies referring to the Messiah as the corner stone. Jesus also used Psalms 118:22 in His parable spoken in front of the chief priests and Pharisees in Matthew 21:33-45. Read the parable and then the note below. Who did God take the kingdom of God from? Who did He give it to? What will happen to those that stumble over Christ?

Note: In the parable of Matthew 21:33-41, the owner of the vineyard is God. The vineyard is the kingdom of God through Christ, the Messiah. God entrusted the kingdom to Israel but they abused and killed the prophets God sent to them in the Old Testament and then finally killed His Son, Jesus Christ.

- b) Read Ephesians 2:19-22. Paul is referring to the church of Christ. How is the church described? What is the purpose?
- c) Do you know people who love to hear that God loves them but never want to hear about their own sins or the cross? Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. What happens to those who think the cross is foolishness?
- i) Preaching that Christ was crucified was what to the unbelieving Jews and the Gentiles (1 Corinthians 1:23)? What is Christ to those that are called (1 Corinthians 1:24)? What does this mean to you personally?
- d) From 1 Peter 2:8, why did the Jews stumble and not see Christ as the promised Messiah?

- i) There are many individuals and many church denominations today that are misinformed and led astray because they don't know God's word. Many people call themselves Christians but wrongly they believe they are going to heaven "because they are good." Realizing how important knowing the Bible is, who can you share what you are learning with this week? Pray that the Lord would give you and your loved ones a craving for His word!
- 4) **Read 1 Peter 2:9-10**
- a) Because of Christ, we no longer need the Old Testament temple with veil that separates us from the holy place, the priests, or the blood sacrifices for our sins. Read Hebrews 10:19-22. How are we to draw near to God?

Note: In Romans chapter 11, Paul wrote about how Christians (believing Gentiles) are "grafted" into the Jewish people. He illustrated how a wild olive branch can be put into a slit cut into a cultivated olive tree and the wild branch will grow and be healthy. It gets its nourishment from the root of the tree. Dead branches of the original tree, however, are cut off and burned. God is still doing a work with the Jewish nation, and will fulfill His promises to them, but we are now grafted in or adopted as sons. We, too, are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for God's own possession. (Also see Luke 14:16-24.)

- b) From 1 Peter 2:9, what is the purpose of being adopted as a people for God's own possession?
- i) Name some ways that God has taken you from darkness to light.
- c) Look at the end of verse 10. Why are we the people of God?
- d) Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How are we to draw near to God when we are tempted? What do we receive in our time of need?

