

FOLLOWING CHRIST

A STUDY IN 1 PETER

January 21, 2018

Pastor Steve Luxa

A New Community of Followers

Introduction

1. Stones

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.” (1 Peter 2:4-8, ESV)

Built Together

Built Into God's Temple

2. People

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10)

⁴⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my **treasured possession** among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a **kingdom of priests** and a **holy nation**.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.'" (Exodus 19:5-6, ESV; emphasis mine)

²⁰ The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my **chosen people**, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself that **they might declare my praise**." (Isaiah 43:20-21, ESV; emphasis mine)

²³ ... and I will sow her for myself in the land. And **I will have mercy on No Mercy**, and I will say to **Not My People, You are my people**'; and he shall say, 'You are my God.'" (Hosea 2:23, ESV; emphasis mine) (See also Hosea 1:8-2:1)

Digging Deeper into Following Christ

This week's passages:

Monday – 1 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday – Ephesians 2

Wednesday – Exodus 19

Thursday – Hosea 1

Friday – Hosea 2

Weekend – Review the most meaningful passages of the week.

Each day this week you are invited to read the day's passage and then respond to the following questions. Take special note of what God's word says about Following Christ. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. Read the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. Record or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. Reflect and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. Respond by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word ("*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*" James 1:22).