I Peter 2:1-10

Review …

- Concluding the FIRST section…
  - Chapter 1-2:10 – The Grace of God and Salvation…
  - Chapter 2:11 – 3:12 – The Grace of God and Submission…
  - Chapter 3:13 – 5:14 – The Grace of God and Suffering
- Be HOLY…
  - In light of our – LIVING HOPE / INHERITANCE / and SALVATION…
  - We must [imperative] be HOLY – by placing our HOPE fully in the GRACE of God DAILY…
  - As we are HOLY – we will reflect Jesus to a lost world!
- HOPEFUL – God will judge all men according to their works…
  - Therefore we should conduct our time here in the FEAR of the Lord…
  - Not trusting in empty MONEY or RELIGION – which has no power to save us…
  - Instead put our HOPE in Jesus – who redeemed us from the power of sin!
- LOVING – [imperative] AGAPE – one another…
  - Because we are born again – and have the transforming work of the Spirit…
  - Through the eternal Word of God – which has the power to help us LOVE one another!
  - **John 13:35** – "All will know that you are My disciples - if you have love for one another."

Illustrations of Salvation…

- **1st – Lay aside… vs. 1**
  - Cast off…
    - Therefore - laying aside…
    - THEREFORE – in light of the commands to be HOLY – HOPEFUL – and LOVING…
    - LAY ASIDE [ἀποτίθημι] – to cast off – toss these things out the window!
    - **Hebrews 12:1** – "Let us lay aside [ἀποτίθημι] every weight - and the sin which so easily ensnares us - and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us…"
    - The Christian life is a not a sprint - it is a MARATHON…
    - Often - we START off well in our race - but we do not all FINISH well...
    - Because we treat the RACE like a sprint – get tired and give up...
    - We need to CAST OFF any weight – the sins - that would slow us down…
    - So we can finish the RACE - receive the prize - Jesus Christ - **Philippians 3:14**
  - 1st – Malice…
    - We are given a list of FIVE things that will keep us from FINISHING the RACE…
    - All MALICE [κακία] – the desire to do evil / cause trouble!
  - 2nd – Deceit…
    - All deceit [δόλος] – to deceive – from a word to bait…
    - Try and LURE someone – in an effort to get from you what you WANT!
    - We enjoy going fishing at MCC after church for lunch…
    - But you have to feel sorry for those fish – the worm drops in the water…
    - And they are LURED out of their safety – because to their DESIRE for the worm!
  - 3rd – Hypocrisy…
    - Hypocrisy [ὑπόκρισις] – to be TWO faced!

- The word hypocrisy comes from the Greek stage – those who wore masks…
- The idea was who they looked like on the outside – was not who they really were!
- We should not pretend to be one thing on Sunday – and another every other day of the week!

- 4th – Envy…
  - Envy [φθόνος] – the desire for things we do not have!
  - People are rarely HAPPY with what they possess – they always WANT more…
  - Envy is not about what we NEED – it is NOT being content with whatever we have…
  - Since God promises to provide what we NEED – **Matthew 6:33**
  - When we are ENVIOUS - we are calling God a LIAR…
  - And it will cause us to be BITTER towards the LORD – and jealous of others!
  - **James 3:16** – "Where envy and self–seeking exist - confusion and every evil thing are there."
- 5th – Evil speaking…
  - All evil speaking [καταλαλιά] – to talk down to others…
  - It carries the idea of tearing others down in an effort to build ourselves up!
  - Did you even notice when people gossip – it is always about BAD things...
  - People like to TEAR others down – in an effort to make them look GOOD…
  - But they are deceiving themselves - and need instead to examine their own lives...
  - God will not excuse our SIN – just because we think someone else is a bigger SINNER!

- **2ND – NEWBORN BABES… VS. 2-3**
  - GRACE for SALVATION…
    - Having CAST off the things that will keep us from FINISHING the RACE…
    - As we conclude the FIRST section of the book – the GRACE of God for SALVATION…
    - We are given THREE illustrations that define our RACE…
    - Newborn babes - Living stones - the People of God!
  - 1st - Milk of the Word… vs. 2
    - As newborn babes - desire the pure milk of the word - that you may grow thereby!
    - NEWBORN – only here NT – infants…
    - How are we to be like NEWBORNS – in our desire for the MILK of the Word…
    - That we MAY [subjunctive] grow through reading our BIBLES!
    - From the moment infants are born – they immediately - constantly NEED milk…
    - They have to eat 8-12 times each DAY – just to survive – they CRAVE milk!
    - The idea is we should CRAVE the Word – long to be in it all throughout the day…
    - If we did not eat for a couple of days – we would know it – start to CRAVE food…
    - Yet so often we go days - weeks without spending time in the Word…
    - One of the results of our salvation – is we should CRAVE the Word like a newborn baby!
    - **Psalm 42:1-2** – "As the deer pants for the water… My soul thirsts… for the living God…"
  - 2nd – PURE milk… vs. 2
    - PURE [ἄδολος] – only here NT – the negative of the word DECEIT [δόλος]
    - There is a trend today to replace breast milk with formula…
    - It is an imitation – DECEPTION - of what is the very best for the newborn!
    - God created us to WORSHIP Him – satan tries to get us to WORSHIP anything but the LORD…
    - He tries to CONVINCE us living for money - pleasure - fame – is good enough…
    - But everything satan does is only a COUNTERFEIT - copy of what God intended…
    - It is the knock off IMITATION of the genuine product – looks similar but it does NOT last!
  - 3rd – TASTE… vs. 3

- SINCE you have tasted the Lord is gracious!
- GRACIOUS [χρηστὸς] – to be GOOD – useful – pleasant…
- Once we have TASTED His WORD – seen the GRACE of our Lord [κύριος]
- Nothing in this world will ever be enough for us – nothing else will FULFILL us!
- **Matthew 11:30** - "For [His] yoke is EASY [χρηστὸς] and [His] burden is light."
- We can try to be FULFILLED by buying THINGS – but possessions get old and break…
- We can try to be FULFILLED with MONEY – but there will always be something more to buy…
- Because we were NOT created by God to be FULFILLED by the things of this world...
- We were created by God to KNOW Jesus – and WORSHIP Him - **John 17:3**
- And only when we live for Jesus – will we find we are SATISFIED - **John 4:14**
- **Psalm 34:8** – "Taste and see that the LORD is GOOD [χρηστὸς in LXX]."

- **3rd – Living Stones… vs. 4-8**
  - 1st – Jesus is the STONE… vs. 4
    - Coming to Him as to a living stone - rejected indeed by men - but chosen by God and precious!
    - Jesus is the STONE that was REJECTED by men – they put Him on the cross…
    - CHOSEN [ἐκλεκτός] – man REJECTED Jesus – but God CHOSE Jesus to save mankind…
    - PRECIOUS [ἔντιμος] – to be held in honor – VERY important!
    - **Philippians 2:9** – "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name."
  - 2nd – We are STONES… vs. 5
    - LIVING stones…
      - You also - as living stones - are being built up a spiritual house - a holy priesthood…
      - To offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ!
      - LIVING stones – we are the BUILDING material for a SPIRITUAL house…
      - We are the TEMPLE of God – His PRIESTS – who offer SPIRITUAL sacrifices!
      - **I Corinthians 3:16** – "Do you not know that you are the temple of God…"
      - Churches are NOT made out of wood and concrete....
      - God uses something far more precious - He uses us to build His house…
      - And God has a purpose and plan for each of us in His house!
    - Being BUILT…
      - BUILT - we are being assembled [present / passive] into the house of God!
      - When King Solomon built the FIRST Temple – all the STONES were prepared off site…
      - They were finished in the quarry - then just assembled on the Temple Mount...
      - Each stone was a perfect fit - they did not even need mortar between the stones!
      - **I Kings 6:7** - "The temple - when it was being built - was built with stone finished at the quarry - so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple."
      - Did you ever wonder why God did not take us right to heaven when we got saved...
      - Why leave us here on earth where we must go through trials and temptations...
      - The reason is because we have a lot of ROUGH edges that need to be polished off...
      - We are NOT going to be CHISELED and shaped in heaven - the work takes place HERE…
      - God puts us through trials to SHAPE us into the people He wants us to be...
      - So that when we arrive in Heaven - we will already be a PERFECT fit!
  - 3rd – THE Cornerstone… vs. 6

- The SCRIPTURE – **Isaiah 28:16**
  - Behold - I lay in Zion [Jerusalem] a chief cornerstone – elect – precious!
  - CORNERSTONE – the key STONE – sets the angles and location of the building…
  - ELECT – PRECIOUS – the same words used to describe Jesus – **I Peter 2:4**
  - Anytime you build a house - you need a set of blueprints to follow...
  - With so many pieces - so many different parts that have to fit perfectly together...
  - If you do not have a blueprint for a major project - it will end in disaster!
  - The blueprint God has given to the church - is the Word of God...
  - The church of God is built upon the foundation - instruction of the Bible!
  - And Jesus is the CORNERSTONE - the most important piece…
  - He is the STONE that SUPPORTS and is the FOUNDATION of the church!
  - **Matthew 16:18** - "On this rock I will build My church..."
  - There are a LOT of ideas today about HOW to build a CHURCH…
  - In order for a CHURCH to grow - you need to entertain the people...
  - In order to get money - hold fundraisers to compel the people to give...
  - All ideas that come from the WORLD - nowhere to be found in the WORD…
  - Unfortunately many churches today look to the world rather than to Jesus...
  - As a result theses churches are not on a good FOUNDATION!
- No SHAME…
  - And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame!
  - Will NOT – [οὐ μὴ subjunctive] – the most powerful negation in Greek…
  - IMPOSSIBLE for those put their trust [present] in Jesus – to be disappointed…
  - To those who BELIEVE in Him – He is an unshakable FOUNDATION!
  - **Matthew 7:24** – "I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock."
  - We will NEVER be disappointed when we choose to make Jesus our FOUNDATION…
  - That does not mean things will always turn out the way we expect…
  - But we can be absolutely certain – that whatever happens – we are UNSHAKABLE!

o 4th – REJECTED... vs. 7-8

- The DISOBEDIENT…
  - Therefore - to you who believe - He is precious. But to those who are disobedient…
  - The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone!
  - DISOBEDIENT [ἀπειθέω] – those who REFUSE to BELIEVE…
  - Jesus is the stone that the builders REFUSED - **Psalm 118:22**
  - According to tradition – when Solomon built the first Temple…
  - The first stone sent to the building site was the chief CORNERSTONE...
  - When the workers received the STONE – they were not ready – set it aside – forgot!
  - The stone the builders rejected – became the chief CORNERSTONE!
- STUMBLING stone…
  - A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.
  - They stumble - being disobedient to the word - to which they also were appointed!
  - A stone of stumbling – a rock of offence – quoting - **Isaiah 8:14**
  - Jesus is the FOUNDATION of the GOSPEL…
  - SALVATION is found in no other name under heaven – **Acts 4:12**
  - Because men are DISOBEDIENT – and REFUSE to believe the WORD of God…
  - They STUMBLE – and are OFFENDED – at the name of Jesus!
  - When TRIALS come quite unexpectedly - giving us no time to prepare...
  - The only hope we have is that we have built our life on a solid FOUNDATION!
  - Then if our bank account is EMPTY - we know God PROVIDES…

        - If we get SICK - we know the great PHYSICIAN!
        - There are NO limits to what God will allow to get our attention…
        - The question is are we willing to fall on Him – admit our need – and be BROKEN…
        - Or do we insist on going our own way – He falls on us – and we are CRUSHED!
        - **Luke 20:18** – "Whoever falls on that stone ROCK [λίθος] will be broken. But on whomever it falls - it will grind him to powder…"

- **4TH – PEOPLE OF GOD… VS. 9-10**
    - 1st – CHOSEN generation…
        - Chosen GENERATION [γένος] – referring to our nationality – our IDENTITY!
        - We often place our IDENTITY on where we are FROM – or what we DO…
        - But our IDENTITY is that we were chosen [ἐκλεκτός] by God to be His own people…
        - Our identity is simply in Christ – and however He wants to use us!
    - 2nd - Royal priesthood…
        - There are THREE priestly lines defined in the Bible…
        - LEVITICAL – which represents the Jewish priesthood…
        - MELCHIZEDEK – which is the Priesthood of Jesus – **Hebrews 7:1**
        - ROYAL – to belong to the KING - which is for you and me!
        - The purpose of the priest was to be a mediator – a go between God and man…
        - God has called us to be His PRIESTS – represent Him to a lost world!
    - 3rd - Holy nation…
        - HOLY [ἅγιος] – to be SET apart for the Lord – as a nation [ἔθνος]
        - We talked last week about being set apart – HOLY - as individuals…
        - But we are also called to be set apart – HOLY as a group!
    - 4th – Special people…
        - SPECIAL [περιποίησις] – to be a POSSESSION – to belong to someone
        - God CHOSE us to belong to Him – knowing exactly who we are!
        - I know how much of a challenge I can be - how many times I make mistakes…
        - I am always amazed - that God also knowing exactly who I am – and still CHOSE me…
        - God is not surprised by our mistakes – He knew what he was getting…
        - He calls us SPECIAL in spite of all our sin - weaknesses - faults - and failures!
    - 5th – People of God… vs. 9-10
        - CALLED out…
            - That you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness…
            - Into His marvelous light!
            - PROCLAIM [ἐξαγγέλλω] – to be a MESSENGER for the LORD
            - God CALLED us out of DARKNESS into LIGHT – so we might [subjunctive] tell others!
            - **I John 1:7** - "If we walk in the light as He is in the light - we have fellowship with one another - and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
            - Those who COME into the light – have fellowship with Jesus – and are FORGIVEN...
            - But those who LOVE [ἀγαπάω] the darkness – refuse to COME - **John 3:19**
            - Considering the consequences for rejecting Jesus – hell…
            - We need to be MESSENGERS for the LORD – going out into the DARK – to show the LIGHT!
        - Not a PEOPLE… vs. 10
            - Who once were not a people but are now the people of God!
            - When Jen and I were in Israel in 2008 - we had to pass through the Netherlands...
            - We had a long layover - and thought it might be nice to get out of the airport...

- My passport from the US – I was NOT required to have a visa…
- But Jens passport was from the PHILIPPINES – a visa was REQUIRED…
- It had nothing to do with being a good or bad person…
- We were GRANTED or DENIED solely based on our CITIZENSHIP!
- We can ONLY be citizens of one of TWO kingdoms - **Matthew 12:30**
- We either belong to the KINGDOM of God - or the KINGDOM of this world...
- And if we try to get into heaven with the wrong CITIZENSHIP – the doors are closed!
- But once we are BORN again - we are no longer FOREIGNERS...
- We no longer belong to this world - we have changed our CITIZENSHIP!

- MERCY…
  - Who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy!
  - MERCY [ἐλεέω] – helping those who in NEED
  - We used to be the ENEMIES of God – and did NOT have MERCY [perfect]
  - But when we BELIEVED – we received His MERCY [passive]
  - We became the PEOPLE of God – HOLY / ROYAL / CHOSEN / SPECIAL…
  - Through His MERCY - we have the LIGHT – and been given a new CITIZENSHIP…
  - The only question is – do we share our HOPE with others – pass on the GRACE…
  - Nothing else in life matters – only what we do with the GRACE of God for SALVATION!