

## Class 2 - Introduction & Comments

### Disciple Status

Peter described the brethren in Asia as “**born again to a living hope** (1:3) *through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*”, and “**born again of imperishable seed** (1:23) *through the living and abiding word of God*”. This act of spiritual birth was driven “*by the mercy of God*” and *caused* by His will (1:3). That the will of God is a vital aspect in becoming God’s child, is stated in Jn 1:12-13.

Jesus was literally and exclusively the only-begotten son of God (Jn 3:16). This was and is A BIG DEAL (cf. Lk 1:26-38 story and the titles Son of God and Son of man). This is also the basis of every born-anew son and daughter of the Father (cf. Jn 3:3-7). The fact of being a spiritual child of God is a fundamental teaching of Scripture (e.g., 1Jn 3:1-3, 9-10, Rom 8:14-17) and the foundation that establishes status “*to all who received Jesus and believed in his name*” (Jn 1:13).

Being a disciple of Jesus is a baseline status. The disciple’s goal is “*to grow up in every way into Christ who is the head*” and “*to attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ*” (Eph 4:15, 13). In chapter 2, Peter talks about several of the roles and aspects of the maturing believer in God’s family.

- v. 2 - newborn infant
- v. 5 - living stone, spiritual house, holy priesthood
- v. 9 - chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation
- v.10 - God’s people, received mercy
- v.11 - aliens and exiles
- v.13 - subjects
- v. 18 - servants
- v. 25 - returned sheep

### To follow Jesus’ example

To be a loyal disciple of Jesus is a worthy and high calling. Such following means doing, not just thinking. “*For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you **might follow in his steps***” (v.21). The text goes on indicate specific instances in Jesus’ life when he was reviled and struck but did not retaliate (Jn 18:19-23, Lk 22:63-65, 23:8-11).

For a disciple to literally imitate Jesus’ behavior [not responding to verbal and physical abuse - v.22-23] is not only doable but expected. This self-control [possible due to trust in God - v. 23] is to **actually** [not metaphorically] **take place in real life**.

## Bible Text - Chapter 2

**1** So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

**2** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation 1:10 — **3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good v.12.

**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 v.9, 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."* (Is 28:16)

**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,"* (Ps 118:22) **8** and *"A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense"* (Is 8:14-15). They stumble because they disobey the word 1:25, 3:1, as they were destined to do.

**9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood v.5, 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.

**11** Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles 1:17 to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul 1:22, v.25.

**12** Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good v.3, 14 deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

**13** Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, **14** or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good v.12,15.

**15** For this is the will of God, that by doing good v.14, 18 you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

**16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

**17** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

**18** Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good v.15, 20 and gentle but also to the unjust.

**19** For this is a gracious thing v.20, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

**20** For what credit is it if, when you sin v.22 and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good v.18, 3:6 and suffer 3:14 for it you endure, this is a gracious thing v.19 in the sight of God.

**21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered v.23 for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

**22** He committed no sin v.20, v.24, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

**23** When he was reviled, he did not revile 3:16 in return; when he suffered v.21, 3:18, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

**24** He himself bore our sins 3:18 in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin v.22, 4:1 and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

**25** For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd 5:2 and Overseer of your souls v.22, 4:19.

## Your Study and Action Notes

1. What do the following words, terms or phrases mean? Write in your answers:

- a living stone. living stones (v. 4, 5) —
- spiritual house, spiritual sacrifice (v. 5) —
- a royal priesthood (v. 9, 5) —
- wage war against your soul (v.11) —
- a gracious thing (v. 19, 20) —
- revile, judges justly (v. 23) —

2. What *encouraging* verse or passage would you like to discuss? \_\_\_\_\_  
Points you would like to make:

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3. What *confusing* verse or passage would you like to discuss? \_\_\_\_\_  
Questions you would like to ask:

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4. What *new information* did you encounter and *what might you do* about its teaching?