

1 Peter 2: 4-6

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”^[b]

Remember Peter’s purpose in the letter, to put courage into Christians who are isolated and facing opposition as a tiny minority in a world that thinks the gospel message is foolish.

In 2v4-10 he paints in Old Testament colours a beautiful picture on the grandest scale possible of what God is doing in this world through his church. He wants us to lift our eyes from the everyday troubles and see that we have been chosen by God, to make much of God in this world: ‘to declare his praises’ to this world (v9).

Sometimes we can have too small a view of the church, but if we grasp what God is saying here, we will be thrilled to play our part in what God is doing!

Three images Peter uses, first we are God’s temple.

Peter says Jesus is the living stone, v4, rejected by the world but chosen and precious to God. As we come to him, put our trust in him we become living stones (v5) as God builds a dwelling place for himself – a spiritual house, or temple.

The image is striking.

When you became a Christian God chose you because he has a purpose for your life as part of his grand building project. Your life has been very carefully designed and fashioned by God to make use of you, one of his living stones, to fit in exactly where he wants you to fit. He will have to knock some rough edges off you, to be sure, and that will be painful, yes, but you can be sure that God has a plan and a purpose for you.

God is in the business of making the people of this world see how great he is. He is building his temple, his church, to display his glory to this world. And he has chosen you to be part of his grand design.

Prayer:

Lord God, lift my eyes to see your grand design. Help me see that in Christ you have chosen me to be a part of your glorious building project. Please help me see how best I can play my part in your church.

Daily Devotions – 16.05.2020

In Jesus' name

amen