NAMES: "BUT YOU ARE ... " - sermon continued

INTRODUCTION

(1 Peter 2:2-5) "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, in indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 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.

(v9-11) "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but now are the people of God, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims ... "

(v3) "if you have tasted that the Lord is gracious"

As an infant, once directed to a mother's milk, continues to desire it, so the Christian's first experience in tasting the word of the Lord should prompt him to repeatedly return to the word of God.

(v4) "Coming to Him"

We must constantly approach the Lord to find strength from the "living stone." When we continually reach forth to the Christ, the standard of Christianity, we find the means and method of building a Christian life structure.

- (v4) " ... rejected indeed by men" (Acts 2:22-23)
- (v4) " ... but chosen by God and precious" (1 Peter 1:19)
- (v5) "YOU ALSO ... "

1. (v5) "AS LIVING STONES"

This description separates us as Christians (and the church) from the temples of idols and the temple in Jerusalem which were built of dead materials.

2. "ARE BEING BUILT UP A SPIRITUAL HOUSE"

We are different from the OT temples made of stone and mortar. (1 Cor. 3:16-17) "Do you not know that you are the temple of God ...?" (Acts 17:24) "God ... does not dwell in temples made with hands."

3. "A HOLY PRIESTHOOD"

Under the law of Moses, the priests were a separate group composed of Levites and designated to offer sacrifices on behalf of the other people. In this text, the figure changes to "a spiritual house" where all members are priests.

- "Offer up spiritual sacrifices" (Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15)
- "Acceptable to God" not pleasing ourselves; rather, it is what God accepts.
- "Through Jesus Christ" (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5)
- 4. (v9) "A CHOSEN GENERATION" (2 Thessalonians 2:13 14) "We are bound to give thanks for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, by our gospel for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

5. "A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD"

Now our "holy priesthood," Christianity, is listed as "royal" because of our relationship to Jesus, who is King. (1 Timothy 6:15)

A "king" has a law, territory, and people (subjects).

6. "A HOLY NATION"

- "Holy" something or someone set apart for designated service; sanctified.
- "Nation" a body of people with its own territory and government; kingdom.

7. "HIS OWN SPECIAL PEOPLE" / (v10) "THE PEOPLE OF GOD"

- "His own" (1 Cor. 6:19-20) " ... and you are not your own ... "
- "That you may proclaim the praises of Him" Yes, praise the Lord!

8. "AS SOJOURNERS AND PILGRIMS"

- Hymn #537 Here We Are But Straying Pilgrims
- Hymn #957 This World Is Not My Home
- Hymn #867 To Canaan's Land I'm On My Way
- Hymn #889 I Am Bound For The Promised Land

CLOSE