

“1 Peter 2:4–5—Part 2”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a five-part series about 1 Peter 2:4-5 before the Day of Trumpets. From time to time through the years, I had spoken about 1 Peter 2:4-5 by mainly concentrating upon three concepts mentioned there. (Those three concepts will be covered in this series as Parts 3, 4 and 5. But Parts 1 and 2 include additional information added to this series.).

- Part 1—“Christ was chosen by God to be a living stone.”
- Part 2—“You are to be a living stone.”
- Part 3—“You are being built up as a spiritual house.”
- Part 4—“You are being built up as a holy priesthood.”
- Part 5—“You are to offer spiritual sacrifices—acceptable to God.”

You are a living stone

This article will focus upon Part 2—“You are to be a living stone.”

- 1 Peter 2:5—“You also [are chosen] as living stones.”

Notice that 1 Peter 2:4 mentioned three ways how Christ was described as a living stone.

- Rejected by men
- Chosen by God
- Precious

I will use the same three statements referring to Christ and apply them to believers—but I will change the order.

Chosen by God

- John 6:44—No one can come to Christ unless the Father (who sent Christ) draws him.”
- John 12:47-48—Those who do not understand specific information are not being judged about that information—but those who reject Christ after understanding that information will be judged.

■ 2 Timothy 2:19—Here are two concepts that are part of the solid foundation: “The Lord knows those who are His” and “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

■ Matthew 7:21-23—Not everyone who claims to know the Lord shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

■ Many will argue: “Have we not prophesied in Your name?”

■ Many will argue: “Have we not cast out demons in Your name?”

■ Many will argue: “Have we not done many wonders in Your name?”

■ Christ’s response will shock many: “I never knew you. Depart from Me.”

Let me repeat that—Some people who think they have a relationship with Christ will hear Him say: “I never knew you.” Yikes! That is amazing.

In a recent presentation, I mentioned that there are 8.3 billion people on the earth and 2.4 billion people on the earth who claim to be a part of the Christian religion.

Will all those people (whom Christ said He doesn’t know) be lost?

No, but many people who claim Christ in their ignorance will miss the first resurrection and will be a part of a later resurrection. (See 1 Corinthians 15:50-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 20:6; and Revelation 20:11-12.)

Rejected by people

■ John 7:7—Early in Christ’s ministry, He said: “The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.”

■ John 16:1-2—Later in Christ’s ministry, He said: “The time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God a service.”

■ Acts 17:5—In Thessalonica, evil men gathered a mob and caused an uproar against Paul.

■ Acts 17:10—The brethren in Thessalonica immediately sent Paul and Barnabas away by night to Berea.

■ Acts 17:13-14—When some brethren from Thessalonica went to Berea to stir up the crowds against Paul, the brethren sent Paul by sea toward Athens.

You are precious

■ John 17:1—“Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may also glorify You.”

■ John 17:6—“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours. You gave them to Me, and I have kept Your word.”

■ John 17:8—“For I have given to the them the words which You have given Me. They have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You. They have believed that You sent Me.”

- John 17:9—"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world, but for those whom You have given Me—for they are Yours."
- John 17:11—"I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world . . . Keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are."
- John 17:12—"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept, and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."
- John 17:14—"I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."
- John 17:15-17—"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."
- John 17:20—"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word."