

“A Living Hope”

Session 3 – Nurture Your New Life

1 Peter 2:1-10

Main Idea: The new life we have been given as born again children of God will grow and bear fruit *as it's nurtured*.

I. **As brothers and sisters, _____ unloving attitudes and actions.**
(2:1)

a. The “filthy five” of human relationships:

i. Malice

ii. Deceit

iii. Hypocrisy

iv. Envy

v. Slander

b. All means all!

II. **As babies, _____ for spiritual _____.** (vv. 2, 3)

III. **As believers, keep coming to _____.** (vv. 4-8)

a. The life of Christ is to function as a _____ for believers who are also despised and rejected by many, but are *chosen* and *precious* to God. Just like Jesus, our sufferings will be followed by vindication and honor!

b. Believers “will not be disappointed”

c. Unbelievers will stumble, suffering eternal “doom”

IV. **As living _____, offer spiritual _____.** (v. 5)

- a. A brief history of God dwelling among His people
 - i. The unhindered God in the Garden. (Gen. 1-3)
 - ii. The inviting God in the pillars (Exodus 13:21-22)
 - iii. The inhabited God in the tabernacle under Moses (Ex. 33:8-14; 40:34-38) and later the temple under Solomon (1 Kings 8:10-11)
 - iv. The incarnate God in a person, Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-38, John 2:19-21; Col. 1:19; John 1:14)
 - v. The indwelling God in US! (Acts 2; Matt. 28:20; John 14:17, 23; 1 Cor. 3:16)
- b. “spiritual sacrifices” – anything we do as a people of God to bring honor to God

V. **As God’s chosen people, _____ His excellencies.** (vv. 9-10)

Time to “marinate”:

- 1) What truth stood out to you the most and why?
- 2) Which of the “filthy five” do you struggle to “put away”?
- 3) These “filthy five” tend to be blind spots for us. In other words, we are quick to blame others for dysfunction in our relationships but struggle to acknowledge **our** part, **our** sin. How can we become more aware of the unloving attitudes and actions that WE need to get rid of?
- 4) What most often quenches your appetite for spiritual milk? [Examples: busyness, laziness, short attention span/impatience (God did not deliver His Word to us in soundbites, Tweets, or devotional nuggets, but rather in a book that takes an entire *lifetime* to understand and live out!), fatigue, digital media addiction (a.k.a. the smartphone in all its mind-numbing glory), isolation from other believers, etc.]
- 5) How are you encouraged by Jesus’ rejection?
- 6) A lot of Christians see going to church as optional – something you do when it’s convenient. How should our identity as “living stones” impact the way we view going to church/gathering with other Christians?
- 7) How can you proclaim God’s excellencies RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE?