

Approximately 40 minutes Expository



Built on the Living Stone

A Study Through 1 Peter Chapter 2 (NIV)

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we come before You in the name of Jesus. Thank You for Your living Word. As we open 1 Peter chapter 2, open our hearts. Build us up spiritually. Remove anything in us that does not honor You. Teach us what it means to be Your people, Your holy nation, Your royal priesthood. And if anyone listening that does not yet know You, draw them to salvation today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Introduction: Growing Up in Salvation

In chapter 1, Peter told us we have a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He reminded us that we have been born again through the living and enduring Word of God.

Now in chapter 2, Peter answers the question:

If we are **born again**... how should we live?

👉 Christianity is not just believing something.

👉 It is becoming someone.

Let's begin in verse 1.

1 Peter 2:1-3 ...Crave Pure Spiritual Milk:

1 Peter 2:1-2(NIV) Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure

spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

Peter begins with removal.

If you want to grow spiritually, you must remove **spiritual poisons**:

- . Malice (hidden hostility)
- . Deceit (manipulation)
- . Hypocrisy (pretending)
- . Envy (bitterness)
- . Slander (tearing others down)

You cannot grow while feeding on bitterness.

Then he says: Vs.2

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk...”

Babies do not casually sip milk.
They crave it.

The Word of God is not optional nourishment.

👉 It is essential survival.

Brothers and Sisters, growth does not happen accidentally.
It happens intentionally.

When believers stop craving the Word, they **stop growing**.

Verse 3 reminds us: **1 Peter 2:3**(NIV)

“Now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”

Salvation is not theory.
It is tasted experience.

👉 If you have truly tasted the goodness of the Lord, you will want more.

Verses 4-8 The Living Stone:

Now Peter moves into one of the most powerful images in Scripture.

1 Peter 2:4(NIV) “As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him...”

Jesus is called the **Living Stone**.

- The world rejected Him.
- God chose Him.
- And He is precious.

Peter continues:

1 Peter 2:5(NIV)⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house...”

Notice this.

Christianity is not isolated.

👉 It is built together.

We are living stones placed upon Christ the cornerstone.

1 Peter 2:6-8(NIV) 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.”**

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

**“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”**

⁸ and,

**“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.” They
stumble because they disobey the**

message—which is also what they were destined for.

Note: destined here means doomed for...

This echoes **Psalm 118:22**(NIV)

“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”

To believers, Jesus is precious.

To those who reject Him, He becomes:

Vs. 8 **“...a stone that causes people to stumble...”**

There are only **two** responses to **Jesus**:

- . Build on Him
- . Stumble over Him

 You cannot remain neutral...everyone must choose.

Verses 9-10 ... Who You Are in Christ:

Now Peter declares one of the most powerful identity truths in the New Testament.

1 Peter 2:9(NIV)⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Let's slow down.....

👉 You are:

- . Chosen
- . Royal
- . Priestly
- . Holy
- . Possessed by God

Why?

Vs.9 "...that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

Salvation does not just rescue us from sin; it gives our lives a new purpose.

- You were in darkness.
Now you are in light.
- You once had no identity.
Now you are God's people.

Verse 10:

1 Peter 2:10(NIV) ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is grace.

You didn't earn it.

👉 You were called into it.

Verses 11-12 Living as Foreigners:

Peter reminds them:

1 Peter 2:11(NIV)¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

👉 This world is not your permanent home.

When Christians try to feel fully at home in this world, something is wrong.

He says:

Vs.11 **“...abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.”**

Sin is not harmless.

It wages war.

And he adds:

1 Peter 2:12(NIV)¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

👉 Your life is a testimony.

People may argue with your theology.
They cannot argue with transformed
character.

Verses 13-17 Submission to Authorities:

Now Peter addresses something practical
.... government.

**1 Peter 2:13-14(NIV) ¹³ Submit yourselves
for the Lord's sake to every human
authority: whether to the emperor, as the
supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors,
who are sent by him to punish those
who do wrong and to commend those
who do right.**

👉 What??? Wonder if you grow up in a
hostile country... Like China, or Iran...

Remember, Peter wrote this under **Roman
rule**. Very Hostile Government... If you
were not a Roman citizen you were less

than a dog in that environment. Your life meant nothing.

Roman was not a government to go against.

👉 Submission does not mean agreeing with everything.

👉 It means living respectfully and orderly.

Why?

Because rebellion can damage our testimony.

Peter explains it clearly in verse 16.

1 Peter 2:16-17(NIV)¹⁶ *Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.*
¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

As Christians, we are truly free.
But that freedom is not permission to do whatever we want.

Christian freedom is not a **license for selfish living.**

👉 It is the freedom to live for God and serve others.

Verses 18-20 Enduring Unjust Suffering:

1 Peter 2:18-20(NIV) ¹⁸ Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you

suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

Peter then speaks to servants.

Vs. 20“....**But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.**”

👉 This is hard.

We understand suffering for doing wrong.
But suffering for doing right?

Peter says that honors God.

And then he points us to **Jesus**.

👉 Jesus did it all as a gift to us that we may live...He suffered for doing right...

Verses 21-24 Christ Our Example:

1 Peter 2:21-23(NIV) ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² “He

committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

- Jesus did not retaliate.
- He did not threaten.
- 👉 He entrusted Himself to the Father.

Verse 24 is powerful: **1 Peter 2:24**(NIV)
²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

This is substitution, swap, replacement.

- He bore your sin.
- He carried your guilt.
- He absorbed your punishment.

And by His wounds: Vs. 24

“...you have been healed.”

This is spiritual healing.

👉 Healing of the deepest wound sin separation from God.

Verse 25 ... The Shepherd of Your Soul:

Peter closes the chapter beautifully:

1 Peter 2:25(NIV) “For ‘you were like sheep going astray,’ but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

- We wandered.
- We strayed.
- We drifted.

But Jesus pursued us.

- He is not only Savior.
- He is Shepherd.
- He oversees.
- He protects.

- He guides.
- He restores.

Bringing It All Together:

1 Peter 2 teaches us:

- . Remove sin that blocks growth.
- . Crave the Word.
- . Build your life on Christ.
- . Remember who you are.
- . Live differently in the world.
- . Submit respectfully.
- . Endure suffering faithfully.
- . Look to Christ as your example.
- . Trust the Shepherd of your soul.

This chapter calls us to maturity.

It says:

You are not random stones.

- You are living stones.

You are not accidental.

- You are chosen.

You are not abandoned.

- You are shepherded.

Invitation to Be Born Again:

Now let me speak clearly.

Peter said: Vs. 25

“You were like sheep going astray...”

That describes every **human being** apart from **Christ**.

- We wander.
- We sin.
- We drift.

But he says: Vs. 25

“...now you have returned to the Shepherd...”

👉 Return requires repentance.

- If you **have never** truly surrendered to Jesus...
- If you **have never** asked Him to forgive your sins...
- If you **are still** carrying guilt...

Today is your day. This very moment.

👉 Jesus bore your sins in His body on the cross.

- He rose again.
- He offers forgiveness freely.

You cannot build your life on being good.
You must build it on the Living Stone.

Right now...where you are...you can pray:

Let us pray....

“Lord Jesus, I know I have sinned. I believe You died for me and rose again. I turn from my sin and place my trust in You. Forgive me. Make me new. Be my Shepherd and Savior. Amen.”

“If” you prayed that sincerely by faith in Jesus Christ, you are no longer wandering. **You are saved.** So do not keep this a secret... go tell someone. ***Romans 10:9(NIV)⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.***

👉 You have returned to the Shepherd (JESUS) of your soul.

Closing Encouragement:

- Brothers and Sisters you must grow.
- Crave the Word.
- Stand on Christ.
- Live a life that reflects Christ.
- Trust your Shepherd (Jesus Christ).

👉 You are being built into something eternal, forever and ever.

Brothers and Sisters...Jesus is coming soon!!! have a wonderful week...

Let us pray...

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for the Living Stone, Jesus Christ. Thank You that we are living stones being built upon Him. Help us remove sin that hinders growth. Strengthen us to live holy and humble lives in this world. Teach us to endure suffering as Christ did. And for those who have returned to the Shepherd today, guard and grow them. We praise You for the cross, the resurrection, and the hope we have in Jesus. In His mighty name we pray, Amen.



Matthew 28:19-20