

January 31, 2021

The Ministry of Hope: Hope Claims Us as New People

1 Peter 2:4-10

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen (*elect*) and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” (*Isaiah 28:16*)

⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,” (*Psalms 118:22*)

⁸ and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.” (*Isaiah 8:14*)

quoted by Jesus in Lk 20:18, by Peter in Acts 4:11

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (*See: Isaiah 43:20-21; Exodus 19:6; and Hosea 2:23 for the allusions*)

Metaphor Change from new birth and newborn infants to a House/Temple- “As you come to Him...you yourselves...are being built up...” - **edification of the Congregation** is the purpose of the Divine Service and the Preaching of Christ. The metaphor change helps move from the individual image of birth to the collective image of this priesthood and temple.

v. 4 – How was Jesus-the-Word “rejected by men”? How is He “chosen and precious” to God?

v. 5 – spiritual house...sacrifices – **spiritual** does not mean immaterial or unreal, it pertains to the work and power of the Holy Spirit.

v. 8 –What is the consequence or punishment for disobedience?

“**Whereunto also they were appointed.** Scripture is very clear on this point. No one is appointed unto *disobedience*, but all who do not believe on Christ are appointed unto *stumbling*. This is the moral order of the universe (Rom. 1:24). God punishes sin with sin, unbelief with unbelief. Whatsoever a man soweth, that also shall he reap.” (R. F. Weidner, p. 142)

v. 9 – race, priesthood, nation, people – what do these terms call to mind?

- Elect, Royal, Holy, Possessed – what do these adjectives mean to the terms?

- what is the purpose for us- the new people claimed by the Hope of the Gospel?

“By linking these [OT] texts, Peter brings to mind the two great moments of deliverance in Israel’s history: the deliverance from slavery in Egypt (Exod 19) and the deliverance from exile in Babylon (Isa 43). Peter is saying that what Israel was and is called to be has now been fulfilled in the Church through the deliverance Christ has accomplished” (Keating, p. 55)

v. 10 – What is the significance of Hosea 2:23 and Peter’s application of it?

The Ministry of Hope: Hope Claims Us as Aliens and Exiles in this World

1 Peter 2:11-17 – Holiness and Christian Submission to Civil Authorities

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

- v. 11 – “sojourners and exiles” – if our home is with God, what are we in relation to the world?
“the passions of the flesh” – what are these?
what does the image of waging war tell us?

Martin Luther: “Now a true Christian life is never at rest...One should fast, pray, and work, in order to subdue and suppress lust...As long as flesh and blood remain, so long sin also remains. Consequently, constant warfare is necessary. He who does not experience this dare not boast of being a Christian.”

- v. 12 – *When...* will they glorify God on account of the good deeds they witness now?

Martin Luther: “We read that when the emperors reigned and persecuted the Christians, one could find no fault with the Christians except that they worshiped Christ and regarded him as a god. Thus Pliny writes to the emperor Trajan that he knew of no wrong the Christians committed except that they assembled early every morning and sang some hymns of praise, with which they honored their Christ, and that they partook of the Sacrament. Otherwise no one could find any fault with them.”

- vv.13-14 If we are *not* truly citizens of this world, but of heaven, what is our relation to authorities?

- vv.15-17 What will practicing these unpopular verses look like for Christians?

“the brotherhood” – once again the family imagery for the Church – how are we living up to it?

One final word from Luther on governing authorities:

Luther: “Thus there are two kinds of government in the world, just as there are two kinds of people, namely, believers and unbelievers. Christians let the Word of God rule them; for themselves they have no need whatever of the secular government. But non-Christians need another rule, namely, the secular sword, because they refuse to be guided by the Word of God. Otherwise, if we were all Christians and followed the Gospel, it would not be necessary or profitable at all to wield the secular sword and power. For if there were no transgressors, there could be no punishment either. But since we cannot all be pious, Christ has entrusted the wicked to the government to be ruled as they must be ruled. But the pious He keeps for Himself and rules them Himself with His Word alone.”