

3 Feb 2013: Preached by Pr Joseph Poon

Topic: **Epistle of 1 Peter – A Call to Spiritual Growth & our Privilege in Christ**

Scripture Text: 1 Peter 2: 1-10

1. Chapter 2 of 1st Peter continues from chapter 1 verse 23 which tells us that we are born again by the Word of God. Being born again as a child of God, we are to put away malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy and evil speaking (v.1). Our lives will be transformed by the Holy Spirit and the end result will be to show forth the praises of God who hath called us out of darkness (v.9).

2. To achieve the end result, we must grow in Jesus Christ (v.2-3). We must have the same intense desire like a baby who craves for milk to be fed. A Christian must desire intensely for the Word of God to grow. We ought to grow to our full potential and we must take responsibility to grow in Christ. If not, we have failed to fulfilled God's purpose in our lives. When we have tasted the treasures of God's Word, we will desire more of it.

3. We must know that we are living stones in the Spiritual House of God (v.4-6). Jesus Christ is the chief corner stone in this House. To build a house, it must take reference from the chief corner stone. Hence, for a believer, our lives must take reference in Jesus Christ and follow what He wants us to be.

4. We must not be ashamed of Christ (v.7-8). If we reject the Lord Jesus Christ, we will suffer. The Jews rejected Jesus and they have to suffer for their sins. Jesus Christ ought to be most precious to us. This is mentioned 3 times in v. 4,6,7.

5. As Christians, we are different and are called a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people (v9-10). All these titles are not for us to take pride in our status. It is rather to remind us how unworthy we are and yet God's mercy and grace have redeemed and saved us. We ought therefore to point people to Jesus Christ by the way we conduct our lives.