

Cornerstone Church

January 1, 2017

**Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for  
Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and  
2nd Peter**

Today's Sermon: Our Calling: The Privilege of  
Proclaiming His Excellencies

Today's Passage: 1 Peter 2:9-10

**[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.**

Introduction:

Main Point: In a world that despises Jesus, Christians can feel despised for being His followers, but a knowledge of our true identity and blessed condition more than makes up for any worldly loss.

That blessed condition is to be shared with others, in fact it is our calling in life.

Review

**(1 Peter 2:4-8 ESV) [4] As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen 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." [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," [8] and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.**

1. Just as the Israelites were despised by the world and unworthy of being God's chosen people, so believers today are despised by the world and unworthy of being God's chosen people.

**(Exodus 19:4-6 ESV) 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."**

**(Deuteronomy 7:6-8 ESV) "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**

**(Luke 6:22-23 ESV) "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.**

- Both the Jewish and Gentile believers in Peter's day were despised in their communities. Back then status came from what town a person was from, what occupation they had, what lineage they came from and what gender they were. These believers chose to follow a man that had no home, came from a questionable lineage, was dirt poor, and died a criminal's death.
- Status today comes from money, power, position and popularity.
- As a rule, devout Christians will never be super rich, and feel comfortable socializing with the elite. They are called to tithe their income and share their possessions with one another and care for the poor and reach out to prisoners.

**For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. (Hebrews 10:34 ESV)**

**Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. (Hebrews 13:3 ESV)**

2. But mature Christians need to shrug off that rejection by the world and identify with their new identities. We are:

**a chosen race**, - This is not a means of pride and prejudice, but of elation that God chose you to be saved. The race is not genetic but spiritual. It is the church composed of people from every ethnic background. It is also individualistic in that God chose you personally to be saved!!!

**a royal priesthood**, - Kings used to employ their own priests for their own religious purposes. Now we are employed by the King of kings to bring people to God and to represent God to people.

**a holy nation**, - We have been given the ability by the power of the Holy Spirit to break sinful habits and addictions and to be free from sin. What a blessing.

**a people for his own possession** – We are the ones God wants to spend eternity with. We are His inheritance. **(2 Corinthians 6:16 ESV)**  
**What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

**Adopted** – (10) **Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people** – No longer foster children or orphans, we have been adopted into God's family. **(Ephesians 1:5 ESV)** **he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,**

**Pitied** - **once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.** Despite our wicked rebellion against God, we, like the Apostle Paul, have been the recipients of His mercy, not His wrath. **(1 Timothy 1:13 ESV)** **though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,**

And why did Paul receive mercy? That God would be glorified!

**(1 Timothy 1:16 ESV)** **But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.**

3. However, we are not blessed to be blessed, we are blessed to bless others. Our life calling is to show forth the excellencies of God our Father. . . . **that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

That is done by:

- Feeling blessed and living as if you are blessed.
- Verbalizing that blessing to our children and grandchildren.
- Verbalizing that blessing to those currently outside the family of God. Some practical tips:
  - Engage strangers in conversations and give glory to God for the beauty of creation, family, health, all the topics that are easy to initiate.
  - Look for new friends that are hurting and possibly searching.
  - Know how to share the gospel, your own story first but then the 1,2,3, of the gospel message.