



August 30, 2009

“Surviving Life: Never settle for just GOOD (6)”

I Peter 2:1-8

Text: 1 Peter 2:1-8 (English Standard Version)

¹So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As 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. ⁶For 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."

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

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,"

⁸and

"A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense."

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

Getting to know me

1. What's a "pet peeve" of yours? What is something that others do that bothers you?
2. If I could immediately change something in my personality, it would be ____.

Into the Bible

1. Check the following verses to see the opposite of these things that we are to "put away. (verse 1)" What is the motive or reason in each one? How does this help you to "put away" these things?
malice—a wish to hurt; Gal. 6:2—

deceit—lying; Eph. 4:25—

hypocrisy—acting differently than you profess; Col. 3:22-24—

envy—jealousy, wish to have what another has; Heb. 13:5-6—

slander—untrue and damaging words about another; Prov. 12:18—

2. So how do we go about “putting away” these things?

3. Sometimes “milk” is used to describe elementary teachings as opposed to the more substantial doctrines of scripture (I Cor. 3:2,3; Hebrews 5:12-14). How is “milk” used here?

What is the “pure spiritual milk” that we are to long for?

4. The “word” is also compared to several other things. How do these help you to grow in your salvation?

Psalm 11:105—

Matt. 4:4—

Eph. 5:26—

5. Remember, Peter is writing to believers scattered through a large geographical area and they are under persecution. How does reminding them that they are being built into a “spiritual house” help them with the challenge they are facing?

How does this help you to live in an increasingly secular society?

6. Look back at what chapter 1 says about “acceptable sacrifices.” How can we make “acceptable sacrifices?” How would thinking about yourself as a priest make a difference in your life?
7. Jesus is not just one among many choices of “spirituality.” How do verses 6-8 confirm that? What are some other key passages that you know of that show that to be true?

Application Questions

1. For further study, you may want to pick up a book by Jerry Bridges, Respectable Sins: confronting the sins we tolerate. Related to these sins listed in verse 1, Jerry writes about (among other sins), anger; sins of the tongue; ungodliness; envy, jealousy, and related sins. Are there any of these sins listed in verse 1 that you are dealing with currently?
2. Talk about some of the people or disciplines that have helped you “grow up into salvation.” Are there some things that you need to re-activate?
3. What was a passage or point in the sermon that made an impression on you?
4. The Old Testament priests stood between God and men, to represent each to the other. How do you, or can you, do that where you are in life right now?