

EXILED // PURPOSEFULLY EXILED // 1 PETER 2:1-12

Agents of Change (1-3)

v 1 *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking*

Laying aside (apothemi - ἀποτίθημι - rejecting, or stripping oneself of soiled garments)

- Malice (general wickedness), deceit (bait, fishhook - dishonesty, falsehood), hypocrisy (an actor who wears a mask - insincerity), envy (resenting others' prosperity), evil speaking (gossip, backbiting)

v 2 *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,*

- A true change will represent a deep desire (epiptheo - ἐπιποθέω - a craving) for God's Word.

- Jesus: "If You continue in my Word, then You are truly disciples of mine" (Jn 8:31). Paul said "I delight in the law of God" in Rom 7:22. OT saints agreed (I have treasured the Words of His mouth; His delight is in the law of the Lord)

- The desire that an infant "just born now" has for their mother is uncanny. It is instinctive.

- And the objective is to grow (auxano - αὐξάνω - augment, increase, grow bigger).

A New and True Identity in Christ (4-8)

v 4 *Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,*

- This coming to Christ implies more than just for salvation, but for a close, intimate personal relationship with Him.

- Peter refers to Christ as the living stone, the one from which the foundation is built and laid.

v 5 *you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

- We are individual bricks in the spiritual house that Jesus is the chief cornerstone of. A brick by itself is useless.

v 6-8 *Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.*

- Peter reinforces what He has been stating by referring to the prophet Isaiah, the Psalms, and the Mosaic Law

- He reviews that Christ was chosen, that He is precious, and that we can have security in the fact that our hopes of what we have in Christ will not be dashed.

Our Purpose (9-12)

v 9 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

- We have been privileged to be in the royal priesthood (God's ruling and priestly line), a holy nation (God's spiritual Israel), and a special people (God's own private possession). But there is responsibility that corresponds with this.

- As priests we must reflect God's holiness, intercede through prayers for others, and represent God to the world. We are to be God's catalysts, the vehicle by which He uses to spread the Gospel.

- Proclaiming (exagello - ἐξαγγέλλω) implies publishing or advertising...referring to something that was otherwise unknown.

v 11 *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,*

- Here, we are reminded that we are objects of God's unchanging, perfect, unconditional love. We are also reminded that we are not members of the world's society.

v 12 *having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

- Our behavior needs to be a honorable (kalos - καλός lovely, fine, gracious, fair, noble, commendable, set a part)

- Don't give anyone (gentiles - nations, the outside world) a reason to have anything bad to say about you and more importantly the God you claim to follow.

This is our purpose. To live lives worthy of the Good News so that others will see the truth in it and desire it themselves.