### 1 Peter

## Chapter 2

1Therefore, you must now get rid of all of your badness, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slandering!  
  
2Then, like newborn babies, develop a taste for the pure milk of the Word, which will help you to grow to salvation… 3That is, if you have indeed tasted that the Lord is good.  
  
4Yes, you must approach him as though he’s a living block of stone that was for a fact rejected by men, but has been chosen as something precious by God.  
  
5Because, it’s upon him that you’re being built as living blocks into a Spiritual Temple and as a Holy Priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God, through Jesus the Anointed One.  
  
6For the Scripture says:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I am laying in Zion a select and precious cornerstone, and all that put faith in it will never be shamed.’ [Isaiah 28:16, LXX]  
  
7Therefore, you’ve put faith in this precious thing that others don’t believe in…  
  
 ‘The block that the builders rejected, but which has become the foundation cornerstone.’ [Psalm 118:22]  
  
8And,  
  
 ‘A stumbling block ... and snare’ [Isaiah 8:14 MS, DSS; see note]  
  
...to those who stumble over the words because of the disobedient ways they’ve been appointed to.  
  
9And now you’ve become a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people who were specially selected to announce the virtues of the One who called you out of darkness and into His wonderful light.  
  
10So, although you haven’t always been a nation, you’re now a nation of God!  
  
And although you once knew no mercy, you’re the ones who are now being shown mercy!  
  
  
11My loved ones,  
  
I want to encourage you [Jews] who are [living as] foreigners and exiles not to indulge in the things that your bodies might crave and which fight a battle against the person who you are on the inside.  
  
12Yes, while you’re [living] among the other races, behave yourselves, so that when they condemn you and say bad things about you, they can see the good things that you’re doing and then glorify The God in the Day that He arrives for His inspection.  
  
13Also, you must obey every office that men have created through the Lord, regardless of whether the one who’s over you is a king, 14or [just] a governor who’s been sent [by the king] to punish criminals and to praise those who are doing good things.  
  
15Because, it’s God’s Will for you to do good things, so that you can put a muzzle on the ignorant accusations of unreasonable men.  
  
16And even though you’re a free people, as slaves of God, don’t use your freedom as a cover-up for doing bad things!  
  
17Rather, be respectful to everyone, love your brothers, fear God, and show special respect for the king.  
  
18Those of you who are household servants should obey and fear your masters… And not just those who are good and reasonable, but also those who are hard to please.  
  
19For if a person with a Godly conscience has to put up with the grief of having to suffer for something he didn’t do, it shows a lot of inner strength.  
  
20So if you’re being slapped for something wrong that you didn’t do, and you [choose to] put up with suffering when you’ve only done good things, this shows your inner strength to God.  
  
21And for a fact, this is the [course] you were called to... Because, the Anointed One suffered on your behalf as an example, so that you’d follow in his tracks.  
  
 22‘He wasn’t guilty of any sin,  
 ‘And his mouth didn’t speak any lies.’  
 [Isaiah 53:9]  
  
23When they shouted bad things at him, he didn’t shout back. When he was suffering, he didn’t threaten anyone. He just left himself [in the hands of] the One who judges righteously.  
  
24Then he...  
  
 ‘carried our sins’ [Isaiah 53:4, LXX]  
  
...on his body when he was hung on the tree. That’s when the sins died so that we could, thereafter, be counted as righteous.  
  
For,  
  
 ‘by his wounds, you were healed.’ [Isaiah 53:5]  
  
25Yes,  
  
 ‘you were like sheep who had strayed’ [Isaiah 53:6]  
  
...but you’ve now returned to the shepherd who’s watching over your lives.