

## **A Message of Encouragement**

1 Peter Chapter 2

**“It is Yours, Now Use It**

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There is one thing in common that all people have, who have come near death.

An acute appreciation for what is truly most important.

**A man who nearly lost his life in a flying accident was asked what part of the accident affected him the most; This is what he said:**

*“I see life so much more clearly now”, “My relationship with Jesus Christ is the supremely most important thing in my life. Now when I hold my wife and kiss my children, I realize what a treasure they are...”*

**What is most amazing about that story is that this man had these things all the time!**

He had them, but he just was not using them...Appreciating them, realizing all he needed, he already had!

**If there is anyone in the Bible that truly understands how hard it is to live their life for Jesus Christ, it is Peter.**

- ☞ **Peter** was perhaps one of the most self willed persons in the Bible.
- ☞ **Today** we might call that **“Pig Headed”**.
- ☞ **That is, Stubborn**, set in our ways, unwilling to bend or change.
- ☞ **And people** that are Pig headed, tend think that it is others that are really pig headed, not themselves.

**Pig Headed cartoon...**

Peter is a perfect example of someone who is trying to follow Jesus, but fails all of the time.

- ☞ **He wanted** his own will over Jesus will.
- ☞ **He denied** Jesus in his life.
- ☞ **He was** too impulsive.
- ☞ **He has** a big mouth.
- ☞ **He is** stubborn and self willed.
- ☞ **When he fails**, he wants to quit.
- ☞ **When he fails he doesn't think** he is worthy to follow Jesus.

After Peter denied Jesus and then returned to the Lord, he used his experience to try and encourage all of us.

- ☞ **In his epistle, Peter** is trying to get us to the same place as the man who nearly died in the plane accident at the beginning of our study,:

A “Near Death” experience with Jesus, where our entire old life has died.

- ☞ **A place** where we can now truly see what is most important in life.
- ☞ **That it is people**, not material things that are the most valuable.
- ☞ **That knowing Jesus** and loving Him is the highest priority.
- ☞ **That we were saved** and redeemed with the Life of the Son of God, because He loves us so much...

### **1 Peter 1:18**

18 knowing that **you were not redeemed with corruptible things**, like silver or gold...,  
19 but **with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.  
22 **Since you have purified your souls** in obeying the truth...**love one another fervently with a pure heart**,  
23 **having been born again**, ... through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

**In other words:** Have you considered this morning just how precious and valuable the gift is that you have been given?

- ☞ **You were not redeemed from eternal judgment**, by money, or some good works that you have done...but the cost that it took to save your life forever, was Jesus Life.
- ☞ **It cost Jesus everything He had**, He left heaven for you, set aside the Glory, The Power, The Majesty of His Kingdom, to become a slave for you and lay down His life...

**Peter is making the appeal to us this morning**, “*Don’t you know how high the cost was to give you the forgiveness and eternal life you have, it cost Jesus everything..?*”

- ☞ **And because Jesus gave everything** that He had for you, today you are amongst the wealthiest beings in the Universe.
- ☞ **The wealth of every planet**, solar system, resource and precious thing that there is, you own it right now, today, it is yours.
- ☞ **You have living inside you, the same power** that it took to raise Jesus from the dead, ready to empower you for anything that the Lord should call you to do.

*“It is yours...Now use it!”*

Our biggest problem this morning, is not that we don’t have what we really need in our life, but that we fail to see **that we already have is everything that we need.**

### **Abraham Maslow**

*“If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail”*

- ⊕ **Many times** we bring a hammer to try and fix everything, because everything looks like a “Nail” to us.

*“This is not working in my life, that person let me down, I did my best but I failed...”*, so I **Hit it with the hammer of Disappointment**,

*“My situation is never going to change...”*, so we **Hit it with the Hammer of Discouragement**,

*“Yes I know that the Lord is Good, and that He blesses other people, but not me because I am not as good as they are”*, we **hit it with the Hammer of Doubt**.

*“I am never going to overcome this struggle with this sin”* **We hit it with the Hammer of Defeat**

- ⊕ **We need to look back into the tool bag** Called the Bible, and see that the Lord gave us other tools that we can use now other than a Hammer.

## **2 Peter 1:3-4**

3 ...Jesus.. **has given to us all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises...

- ⊕ **There are wrenches** that we can use to “**Adjust**” things in our life, like adjusting our attitude to be more like Jesus attitude.
- ⊕ **There are tape measures** that we can “**Measure**” where we are at, by comparing our current life to the Life that Jesus describes for us in the Bible.
- ⊕ **There is an oil can** called “**The Holy Spirit**” and we can bring the Holy Spirit into every situation of our lives to help us make these changes.

**We can remember who we are this morning, because of what Jesus has done for us...**

## **1 Peter 1:18**

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold...,

23 having been born again...

1. **“We are Redeemed”** Because Jesus gave all that He had for you..
2. **“Now, having been “Born Again...”** We are not stuck in the old life, with the old disappointments and failures...

**So, we do not have to live to the same old way anymore, we can live a new life of Goodness, and Righteousness...We have a choice now!**

## **1 Peter 2**

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

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

3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Since you and I are **no longer the same people we once were** before we invited Jesus into our life, and received His great and precious gift of eternal life, we should be living a different kind of life...

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ**, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**If you have accepted Jesus this morning as Lord and Savior, THEN YOU ARE a new Creation, all of the old things you used to do, should be dying and passing away..**

### **1 Peter 2**

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

- ☞ **Malice** is a pre thought out intent to do harm to another person.
- ☞ **Deceit** is Lying or covering up the truth.
- ☞ **Hypocrisy** is pretending to be someone who you really are not.
- ☞ **Envy** is looking at and desiring what other people have.
- ☞ **Evil speaking** is the idea of Gossiping and talking about other people and their lives.

Since we have been Born Again, and we understand now what it cost Jesus to give his precious gift to us, we make the choice to set aside these kinds of things...

- ☞ **When Jesus died for you** and removed all of your sins, He also promised to come and live inside of you and give you the power to live a new life for Him.
- ☞ **You are not like you were before** Jesus came to live in you, helpless to change, a slave to the things that held you.
- ☞ **Today, you are a "New Creation"**, The living Lord Jesus lives inside you, and by His Holy Spirit promises to give you the Power and strength to overcome every sin.

**But you have a part in this too**, you must consciously determine to overcome things like Peter mentions here in verse 1

**It is not enough to just pray "Lord help me to change and become more like you..."  
We have to take steps ourselves to HAVE NEW BEHAVIOR.**

When we take the first steps to change, then the Holy Spirit comes in alongside us to reinforces our efforts and give us the ability to become someone new.

- ☞ **Because we are not the same person any longer**, we no longer want to (**Malice**) do harm to another person, especially when they have hurt us. **We will forgive** and let things go, because Jesus forgave us and let our sins go.
- ☞ **We no longer want to lie**, Jesus told us the truth and has brought truth into our life, so now **we will tell the truth.**

- ☞ **We are not going to pretend to be something that we are not**, but rather let people see and hear that **we are just struggling as much as they are**. We are not better than anyone,.
- ☞ **If it had not been** for Jesus, there would have been no hope for us...We are totally dependant upon Jesus for everything.
- ☞ **We learn to be content** with whatever we have and be thankful to the Lord for it. If He wants for us to have more, He will give us more.
- ☞ **We will not speak of another person in any negative way**, we will only say good things about others or we will keep our mouth shut!

So, you See, we do have a choice, we don't have to live everyday like everyone else in the world.

**I think that sometimes we fail to give as much effort to living a righteous life as we really need to, because we have failed to realize who we really are:**

There was a young man who was a student at a bible college. One morning he was called into the office of the dean.

The young man was in the deans office because of his behavior, which was something less that what was expected of a bible college student.

After discussing the matter, the young man finished his long speech with the excuse, **"After all Dean, I'm only human."**

When he said that, the dean jumped to his feet, raised his voice several decibels, and shouted, **"Only human! Do you realize what you have just said?"**

The Dean moved back into his chair, and his eyes were wide with surprise. **"Only human!"**

**"You mean 'made in the image of God,' made a little lower than the angels, Jesus gave all for you, you have been given the power to become greater than the angels, a Joint heir of the universe, someday to be a King and Priest with Jesus to rule the earth... Only human"!**

**"Someday you will be called on to judge angels. Only human! "**

**"You have been given dominion over the earth and every living creature on the face of the earth. The greatest of all God's creations".**

**"The only creature able to think the thoughts of God. The object of all his love, and the one for whom the father was willing to allow his son to die for—Only Human?"**

Silence reigned heavily in the room. For a long moment the young man stared at the dean in bewilderment.

The dean was hoping that his words had driven home an important truth.

Soon the young man began to move uneasily in his chair, and he said, "I guess I've been less than what the Lord wants for me to be... I'm sorry... I will do better."

**The Dean nodded his head, and the young man walked out. . . .**

- ⊕ **Do you know** who you really are?
- ⊕ **You are** the sons and daughters of the Most High God!
- ⊕ **You have been** given dominion over the earth.
- ⊕ **Someday** you will judge the angels.
- ⊕ **Very soon** you will reign with Jesus over His Kingdom that He will set up for 1,000 years.

Knowing who we are, should make us want to live up to that calling.

### **1 Peter 2**

4 **Come to Jesus** as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, **but chosen by God and precious,**

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 must come to Jesus, knowing that everything depends on Him...He is chosen, precious, and that Jesus has made us "Living Stones", that He is building up, into a house that is strong, full of love, full of Graciousness, full of power and wisdom...

- ⊕ **Jesus didn't just save you** so you could go to Heaven, **did you know that?**
- ⊕ **He has** something very important for you and I to do.
- ⊕ **He saved us** to become like Himself, Kings and Priests to other people.
- ⊕ **Very soon,** Jesus will come for us in the clouds and Rapture us out of this earth.
- ⊕ **Then He will give to us a brand new Immortal body** that will be perfect and never die again.
- ⊕ **Then He will reward us** for every tiny little thing we did during our time here on the earth, that we did just for Him, because of our love for Him and our desire for people to know who Jesus is.
- ⊕ **Then After the 7 year judgment** of the Great Tribulation is over, Jesus is bringing us back to earth with Him, to assist Him is reigning over a new kind of kingdom that the world has never seen before.

**For 1,000 years, all those who survive the 7 year Tribulation, those who are still alive, mortal beings, will go into a perfect, righteous kingdom ruled by Jesus, promised in the Old Testament, where Jesus will rule and reign for 1,000 years.**

- ⊕ **You and I, no longer mortal,** that is, able to die, but instead Immortal, living in a perfect body that cannot die, with a perfect mind full of the wisdom of God, will be assisting Jesus in His new kingdom.

☞ **Jesus** described this truth in Luke chapter 19

### **Luke 19:11-17**

11 Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.

12 Therefore He said: "**A certain nobleman went into a far country** to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.

13 **So he called ten of his servants**, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, "Do business till I come.'

14 But **his citizens hated him**, and sent a delegation after him, saying, "We will not have this man to reign over us.'

15 "And so it was that **when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.**

16 Then came the first, saying, "**Master, your mina has earned ten minas.**'

17 And he said to him, "Well done, good servant; **because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.**'

### **Revelation 1:5-6**

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

6 and **has made us kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### **Revelation 5:9-10**

9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; **and we shall reign on the earth.**"

**I think that sometimes people fail to live up to the capacity of who they are, because they either can't see, or don't know who they are going to be someday...**

☞ **You are going to be an Immortal being** with a perfect mind and Body, rule over cities, and people, in perfect love, justice and righteousness.

☞ **How are you living today?**, like you know and believe this, or are you living like you think things are never going to be any better than they are right now?

☞ **You don't have to live like you have in the past**, You are a King and a Priest, that is your destiny, that is the Promise of Jesus....Do you believe it? Then start living like a King, live Righteously, full of Love, Do good, put away all the old Malice, Lying, Envy, Hypocrisy, Gossiping...

**Peter, His life before Jesus changed Him, and His life after Jesus changed him, is such a great example to us.**

☞ **Peter, here in his epistle**, quotes numerous times from all over the Old Testament.

- ☞ **He uses Scripture with the precision of a Scholar**, and Yet Peter was just a simple fisherman when Jesus called him.
- ☞ **For 3 1/2 years**, Every hour of everyday, Peter had the WORD of God, nearby, burning Himself into Peters heart.

When Peter was standing before **the entire council of the Jewish leadership** in Israel, they realized that something had happened to Peter:

### **Acts 4:13**

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived **that they were uneducated and untrained men**, they marveled. And **they realized that they had been with Jesus**.

Peter, James, and John were just men, simple, uneducated men. Yet Jesus planted His Word inside them, and they became vessels that could pour out that Word, whenever it was needed.

- ☞ **Peter** has a “good Working knowledge of the Scriptures”.
- ☞ **In order for anyone** to really be used by the Lord, they also need a “Good working knowledge of the bible”.

Now I am not talking about a graduate of Bible College.

- ☞ **A general knowledge** of where certain things are in the Bible.
- ☞ **You don't have to be able** to quote chapter and verse, or be able to quote the verse exactly as they were written.

**Even When Peter quotes from the Old testament, he doesn't do so word for word, but he gets across, the thought of the verses.**

- ☞ **It is perfectly Ok** if someone wants to know something that the Bible might have to say, and you can't remember where the verse is, but you remember what it was about, and you paraphrase it for them.
- ☞ **Get yourself a little pocket concordance**, this helps a lot.

**In the Book of 1 Peter, Peter is quoting from**

### **Isaiah 28:16**

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.

- ☞ **These men knew the word of God**. That is why the word of God is so important in our lives today.
- ☞ **If I want to be used of God**, it is important that I fill my mind, my heart, my life with the word of God. And to have a working knowledge of God's word is vital.
- ☞ **That's why we teach the word of God**. That's why we go through it from Genesis to Revelation in order to lay for you a solid foundation in God's word.

**The word of God doesn't return void. It will accomplish the purposes for which it is sent.**

### **Isaiah 55:11**

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

- ⊕ **And the beautiful thing** is as we plant the word of God in your heart, in time of need the word will come back to you.
- ⊕ **Suddenly you'll find yourself quoting some passage of scripture** or speaking some truth and you don't even know that you knew that scripture.
- ⊕ **Because you have read the verse once**, it has been planted there in your mind, and the Holy Spirit then can bring to your remembrance, Jesus said, the things that I have taught you. As we study the word, it is planted in our hearts.

### **John 14:26**

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and **bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

**It is high time that we began to wake up and live like the persons Jesus has made us to be...**

### **1 Peter 2**

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;

This is who you really are this morning, "A Chosen generation, A Royal Priesthood, A Holy Nation, His Own special People..."

*...so that we can do what...?*

- ⊕ **Whine and complain** about our life?
- ⊕ **Be constantly** full of fear and doubts?
- ⊕ **Live our life** since we have come to know Jesus, like the rest of the world?

**What does it say, verse 9?**

*"...that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light..."*

**So that your life could praise Him, who called us out of the darkness.**

### **1 Peter 2**

10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

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

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.

### **Did you get that?**

- ☞ We are His People.
- ☞ We have obtained His Mercy.
- ☞ We are just strangers here on this earth, it is not our home...Therefore..

### **Abstain, cut off, cease and desist from giving your flesh whatever it wants...**

- ☞ Tell your body NO!, you can't look at that!
- ☞ No, you can't go there anymore
- ☞ NO, we are not going to whine and complain any more
- ☞ No, I am not going to Gossip and say unkind things about people...
- ☞ No, you are not going to scream and yell and throw those little fits anymore.
- ☞ No!, you are not going to rule me anymore.

### **We should want to have a life that honors Jesus and gives to Him the Goodness and Righteousness He really deserves.**

So that when people see our life, they will glorify Jesus and see that we do know Him because we are living our life for Him...

#### **1 Corinthians 3:21**

Therefore let no one boast in men. **For all things are yours:**

#### **2 Peter 1:3**

as His divine **power has given to us all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

All things are ours already, all we have to do is begin to use them!