



Rice Memorial MBC

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A Chosen People

Definitions printed in **bold letters** are from
Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition,
or Roget's Thesaurus – **November 8, 2009**

At the above website, click **YouTube** for Rice Memorial & Tomberlin choir in praise !

1 Peter 2:1-10

Introduction: People seek **satisfaction** (*joy, pleasure*) in the country they live in, the company they work for, or the sports team they root on to victory. Another thing **all** of us want is to be part of something that will have lasting value. The problem with all of **man's** efforts **apart** from God is that **sin** isolates him from **true UNITY** with **OTHERS**.

In this week's scripture text, Peter presented his readers with a picture of a life of **eternal value** and **purpose**. How different this is from the life of **unbelievers!**

Our lesson picks up where we left off last week. Peter's quotation from Isaiah had emphasized the insubstantiality (*unreality, 1913 Webster's*) of life apart from God. Instead of **hating** their **persecutors**, God's people should **PITY** them.

Source: The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication- Christian Life Series

Thought 1. Peter is conveying to these Christians what he learned from **Jesus** in reference to **persecutions**. And God inspired Paul to say, they **WILL** come, **not must** come. 2 Tim. 3:12

Matthew 5:43-46, Ye have **heard** that it hath been said, Thou shalt **love** thy neighbour, and **HATE** thine enemy. But I say unto you, **Love** your **enemies**, **bless** them that **curse** you, do **good** to them that **hate** you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and **PERSECUTE** you; That ye may be the children of your **Father** which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the **evil** and on the **good**, and sendeth **rain (1026, to moisten (espec. by a shower.))** on the **just** and on the **unjust**. For if ye **love** them which **love** you, what **reward** have ye? do **not** even the publicans the same?

Love defined 25, to love (to have benevolence [to **feel** PITY for] or good will for) (in a social or moral sense).

Persecute defined 1377, to pursue (lit. or fig.) by impl. to persecute.

Persecute, 1. to **pursue** in a manner to injure, vex or afflict; to harass with unjust punishment or penalties for supposed offenses; to inflict pain from hatred or malignity. 2. to afflict, harass, or destroy (kill) for **adherence** to a particular creed (**belief**) or system of religious principles, or to a mode of worship.

Thought 2. Notice, that contrary to beliefs held by some Christians, the **rain** that is spoken of by Jesus is **NOT storms**, etc. But **showers** sent to help **grow** the produce on their farms, and water their lawns, etc.: all for their good! Notice, there is a **reward** for obedience. And we'll **FEEL pity** for them knowing and **looking** on the fact **sin** has a **consequence**. Don't look at the persecution!

Luke 19:41-42, And when he (*Jesus*) was come near, he beheld the city, and **wept** over it, Saying, If **thou** hadst **known**, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which **belong** unto thy peace! but **now** they are **hid** from thine eyes.

1 Peter 2:1, Wherefore **laying aside** **all MALICE**, and **all GUILLE**, and **HYPOCRISIES**, and **ENVIES**, and **all** evil speakings...

Malice defined 2549, badness, i.e. (subjectively) depravity (corruption; a vitiated [rendered impure] state; as the depravity: corruption of manners and morals.), **or (actively) malignity** (evil dispositions [inclination: leaning of the mind or will] of heart towards another; malice without provocation, or malevolence with baseness of heart).

Guile defined 1388, a trick, i.e. (figuratively) wile (trick or stratagem practiced for ensnaring or deception; a sly, insidious artifice [stratagem])--**craft** (cunning, art or skill, in a bad sense, or applied to bad purposes)).

Hypocrisies defined 5272, acting under a feigned (invented; devised) part, i.e. (fig.) deceit (duplicity, doubleness of heart or speech; the act or practice of exhibiting a different or contrary conduct, or uttering different or **contrary** sentiments, at different times, in relation to the **same thing**; or the act of dissembling ones **REAL** opinions for the purpose of concealing them and misleading persons in the conversation and intercourse of life): **dissimulation**. (*Peter was corrected of this fault by Paul in Gal. 2:11-14*)

Enviess defined 5355, ill-will (enmity, the opposite of friendship; hatred; unfriendly dispositions; malevolence, inclination to injure others) (**as detraction** [the act of taking something from the reputation or worth of another, with the view to lessen him in estimation: esteem: VALUE]; Detraction may consist in representing merit, as less than it really is; or in the imputation [charge, hint] of faults, vices or crimes, which impair **reputation**; and if such imputation is **false**, it is slander or defamation.), **i.e. jealousy** (that passion of peculiar uneasiness which arises from the **fear** that a rival may rob us of the **affection** of one whom we love, or the **SUSPICION** that he has already done it; or it is the uneasiness which arises from the fear that another does or will enjoy some advantage which we **DESIRE** for ourselves.) (**spite** [1. to be angry at; 2. to try to injure or thwart {to be in opposition}]).

Thought 1. A person can't lay aside what they don't know they **HAVE**. So, we should spend time **meditating** these definitions and **honestly** look at **ourselves** so the Holy Spirit can show us where we **are** in regard to the things Peter has listed.

Luke 8:15, But that on the **good** ground are they, which in an **HONEST** and good heart, having heard the **WORD**, **keep it**, and bring forth **fruit** with **PATIENCE**.

Honest defined 2570, valuable or virtuous (efficacious: productive by inherent qualities):- **honest** (1. upright; just; fair in dealing with others 2. sincere: plain; zealous; not pretentious: humble; **truth-loving**).

Patience defined 5281, cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, CONSTANCY:-- enduring, patient continuance (waiting).

1 Peter 2:2-3, As newborn **babes**, **desire the sincere** milk of the **word**, that ye may **GROW** thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. (See Psalm 34:8)

Thought 1. One big truth to notice here is Peter listed **only** the **sincere (unadulterated: pure, unmixed)** milk of the **WORD** as the means by which Christian babies **GROW**. He didn't say they grow by **trials** and tribulation (storms) in their lives! We know this truth about **physical** babies! Now Father is helping us to **know** this truth about **spiritual** babies!

1 Peter 2:4-8, To whom coming, as unto a **LIVING** stone, disallowed indeed of men, but **chosen** of God, and precious, Ye also, as **lively stones**, are built up a **spiritual house**, an **holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God **by** Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the **scripture**, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief **corner** stone,

elect, precious: and he that **believeth** on him shall not be **confounded (shamed)**. Unto you therefore which **believe** he is **precious**: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the **head** of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of **offence**, even to them which **stumble** at the **word**, being **disobedient**: whereunto also they were **appointed**.

NOTE: Whereunto also they were appointed... This does **not** mean that God foreordained, or appointed certain individuals to **fall**; but it means that God has finally and irrevocably appointed all **disobedient** souls to stumble. When the **proud** hierarchy of the ancient Israel **refused** to believe in Christ, they thereby thrust themselves under the blanket indictment of all **unbelievers**; and they **fell**, as God had **ordained** and **appointed** all **unbelievers** to fall. The indictment still stands, and unbelievers still incur the wrath of God through their unbelief. **Source: James Burton Coffman's Commentaries: New Testament**

1 Peter 2:9, But ye are a **CHOSEN** generation, a royal **priesthood**, an holy nation, a **PECULIAR** people; that ye should shew forth the **PRAISES** of him who hath called you out of **darkness** into his marvellous **light**...

Peculiar defined 4047, purchased, peculiar (1. belonging to a person and to him only. 2. SPECIAL). (So, as you can see, peculiar does not mean strange, etc as some think!)

Praises defined 703, manliness (the qualities of a **MAN**). (**valor** [strength of mind in regard to danger; that quality which enables a man to encounter danger with firmness]), **i.e. excellence** (state of possessing good qualities in an eminent [high] degree; [1913 Webster]).

Man, It sometimes bears the sense of a male adult of some uncommon qualifications; particularly, the sense of strength, vigor, bravery, virile powers, or **MAGNANIMITY**, as distinguished from the weakness, timidity or impotence [being impotent, wanting strength or power) of a **BOY**, or from the narrow mindedness of low bred men. (Narrow defined, covetous; not liberal [generous] or bountiful; as a narrow heart.)

Magnanimity, greatness of mind; that elevation or dignity of soul, which encounters danger and trouble with tranquility and firmness, which raises the possessor above **REVENGE**, and makes him delight in acts of benevolence, which makes him disdain (have no desire for) injustice and meanness, and prompts him to sacrifice personal ease, interest and safety for the accomplishment of useful and noble objects.

Revenge, 1. **return of an injury**; the deliberate infliction of pain or injury on a person in return for an injury received from him. 2. According to modern usage, a malicious (proceeding from extreme hatred or ill will) or spiteful infliction of pain or injury, contrary to the laws of justice and Christianity, in return for an injury or offense. Revenge is dictated by passion (feeling of the mind); vengeance by **justice**. 3. The passion which is excited by an injury done or an affront given; the desire of inflicting pain on one who has done an injury; as, to glut revenge.

Revenge, as the word is now understood, is always contrary to the precepts of Christ. The indulgence of revenge tends to make men more savage and cruel.

1 Peter 2:10, Which in time past were **not** a people, but are **now** the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now **have** obtained **MERCY**.

Mercy defined 1653, have compassion (pity on), have (obtain) mercy (1. That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to **OVERLOOK injuries**, or to treat an offender **BETTER** than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict **LESS** than law or justice will warrant.