

Who Are We?

1 Peter 2:4-10

Introduction:

- A. 1 Peter written to strengthen persecuted Christians.
 - 1. Two dangers — retaliation and capitulation.
 - 2. To fortify against retaliation he reminded them of Christ's suffering (1 Pet 2:21-25)
 - 3. To fortify against capitulation he reminds them of who there are in Christ (text)
- B. "Prof" Williams: "Don't forget who you are."
- C. A preacher: "When I get away from here, I sometimes forget who I am."
- D. We especially need to remember who we are when:
 - 1. Provoked by persecution and injustice.
 - 2. The desire to conform to the world is strong.
 - 3. We feel discouraged by:
 - a. Problems among us..
 - b. Denominational "successes."
 - 4. Belittled by "wise of this world."
- E. Let us ask ourselves often, "Who are we?"

Discussion:

- I. We Are God's Chosen Special People (1 Pet 2.9-10).
 - A. Were nobody, now somebody special.
 - 1. Living stones in God's house – Chosen and precious, (vv 4,5,9 cf. 1 Tim 3:15; 1 Cor 3:16-17).
 - 2. Royal priests in God's kingdom (v. 9; cf. Rev. 1:5-7).
 - 3. Special purchased people. (Cf. Acts 20:28).
 - B. Not a "self-made people", but God made.
 - 1. "Obtained mercy" (v. 10; cf. 1 Cor 15:10)
 - 2. "Proclaim the excellencies of Him" (v. 9).
 - 3. His workmanship (Eph. 2:8-10)
- II. We Are God's Lights in the World. (v. 9).
 - A. Lights in the midst of moral and religious darkness (Phil. 2:15)
 - 1. As individuals (Matt. 5:13-16).
 - 2. As congregations (Rev. 1:20).
 - B. Lights the world needs — not necessarily what it wants. (Cf. John 3:19-21).
 - 1. Good influence and popularity not the same.
 - 2. May not be appreciated by world. (John 15:19; 17:14)
- III. We Are God's Heirs to Heaven (1 Pet.1:3-4).
 - A. As God's children (Rom. 8:15-17; 1 John 3:1; Gal. 3:26, 27)
 - B. As citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20-21).
 - 1. Exiles waiting deliverance.
 - 2. Representatives of values of homeland in foreign land.
 - C. As heirs, we "will by no means be put to shame." — we will inherit (v6).

Conclusion:

- A. How can we get discouraged enough to quit knowing that:
 - 1. We are God's own special people.
 - 2. We are lights in the world.
 - 3. We are heirs of heavens treasures.
- B. How can we not obey the gospel and become one of God's own? (1 Pet 1:22-24).