



JASON K. BOOTHE
**A HOLY PEOPLE
FORMED BY
SOVEREIGN GRACE**
A GOSPEL REFLECTION ON 1 PETER 2:2-10

A Holy People Formed By Sovereign Grace

Reflections on 1 Peter 2:2–10

There is a kind of societal Christianity that is content with familiarity. It knows the language. It recognizes the patterns. It moves through the rhythms of church life with a steady cadence. Yet the passage before us in 1 Peter 2:2–10 calls us beyond institutional familiarity and into something deeper, richer. It calls us to taste, to hunger, to grow, and to rest in the sovereign grace of God.

Peter writes to believers who have encountered the goodness of the Lord. “Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk.” This longing is evidence that God has already done a work within us, giving us a heart receptive to the true Gospel. Just as a newborn instinctively cries out for nourishment, so the believer who has tasted the grace of God begins to hunger for all that God has in store for him.

This is one of the great assurances of the Christian life. Our desire for God is itself a gift from God. It flows from a renewed heart that has come alive to the beauty and sufficiency of Christ. The Word of God becomes our nourishment, not out of duty alone, but out of delight.

Peter then shifts the image and directs our attention to Christ Himself. He is the “living stone,” rejected by men but chosen and precious in the sight of God. What the world casts

aside, God establishes. What appears weak or undesirable by human standards is exalted by divine purpose. The cross itself stands as the clearest testimony of this truth. Christ was rejected, yet through that rejection God accomplished redemption.

And here is where the passage becomes deeply personal. Peter tells us that as we are drawn to Christ, we too are made into “living stones.” We are not spectators in God’s work. We are participants. By His sovereign grace, He takes what was once lifeless and builds it into something living and enduring. The church is not a human institution held together by effort or strategy. It is a spiritual house, carefully and intentionally constructed by God Himself.

This identity carries purpose. We are being built into a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Christians are received by God through the finished redemptive work of His Son. Christ is both the foundation and the mediator. Every aspect of our relationship with God is secured in Him.

Peter anchors these truths in the promises of Scripture. God has laid a cornerstone in Zion, and that cornerstone is Christ. Those who believe in Him will never be put to shame. This is a hope that endures! It is a certain one. The security of the believer rests in the strength of the One in whom their faith is firmly rooted: Christ the Lord.

At the same time, Peter reminds us that Christ is unavoidable. He is either the foundation upon which one stands or the stone over which one stumbles. Yet even here, the sovereignty of God is not absent. His purposes are never uncertain. They are accomplished exactly as He has ordained.

Then come some of the most beautiful words in the passage. “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession.” God, in His mercy, has set His love upon His people. He has called them out of darkness and brought them into His marvelous light.

This calling is an act of divine power. God does not simply suggest that we come into the light. He brings us there. He opens our eyes. He changes our hearts. He makes us His own.

We are called so that we might proclaim His excellencies. The grace we have received becomes the message we declare. The mercy we have been shown becomes the story we tell.

Peter closes by reminding us of the transformation that has taken place. “Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” These words anchor our identity in the unchanging work of God. We belong to Him because He brought us near.

This is the heart of sovereign grace. God acts. God calls. God builds. God keeps.

And our response is to come. To continue coming to Christ, the living stone. To feed upon His Word. To rest in His finished work. To live in the joy of belonging to Him.

May we never lose our appetite for the things of God. May we never forget that our place in His house is a gift of mercy. And may our lives continually proclaim the excellencies of the One who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light.



*At the heart of Redeemer's ministry is the pastoral leadership of **Jason K. Boothe**, who serves as pastor of Redeemer Church in Piketon, Ohio. Known for his warm, Gospel-centered preaching and careful exposition of Scripture, Pastor Boothe consistently points listeners to the finished work of Jesus Christ as the foundation of the Christian life. His ministry emphasizes the sufficiency of Christ, the comfort of God's promises, and the assurance believers have through faith alone. Through preaching, teaching, and pastoral care, he seeks to help ordinary people see the extraordinary grace of God at work in His Word and in their daily lives.*

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.