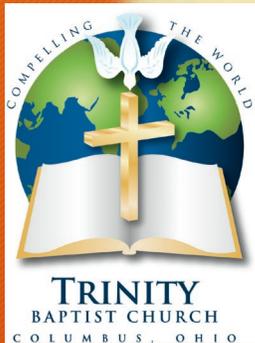


COURAGEOUS CHRISTIANITY

A Bible Study Series | Peter 2
Trinity Baptist Church, Columbus, OH
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OBJECTIVES FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIVING IN A HOSTILE CIRCUMSTANCES

2

- Spiritual Growth is Necessary
- Christians Have a Privilege in Christ as God's Chosen People
- Christians Must Fulfil Their Duty

CHRISTIAN MUST GROW UP

3

1 Peter 2:1-3 NIV

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

EVIDENCE OF GROWTH

4

- Our Actions Change
 - Lay Aside
 - All Malice, all deceit
 - Hypocrisy, envy and all evil speaking
- Our Desires Change
 - Pure Milk-The Word
 - As a newborn Crave the Word...it is necessary of healthy growth
 - Maturity is evident in your Salvation
 - Discover the Lord is gracious

BUILDING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

5

1 Peter 2:4-10

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸ and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they
disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy
nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises
of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful
light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of
God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received
mercy.

HOW THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE BUILT?

7

- Spiritual House
- Christ is the chief cornerstone
- Believers are stones...(*Lithos*: already cut and dressed)
 - Chosen...Acceptable
 - Valuable...His Possession
 - Capable...Royal Priesthood
- Now
 - Proclaim praises to God
 - Forgiven

OUR DUTY IN CHRIST

I Peter 2:11-25

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

¹⁸ Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

OTHER TEXTS TO CONSIDER

10

- Ephesians 6:5-9

⁵ Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

- Colossians 3:22-25

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

FACTS TO CONSIDER

11

- Scripture must be approached
 - Circumstantial Understanding
 - Literary Understanding
 - Historical Understanding
 - Narrators Understanding
- Jesus and the Jewish Perspective
- Slavery was voluntary
- Jesus came to revolutionize the soul and society
- Love your Enemies

FULFILLING OUR DUTY AS CITIZENS AND SERVANTS

12

- Maintain your Christian Identity...Foreigners
 - Abstinance for desires of the flesh which hinders spiritual growth
 - Actions witness to those that do not know the tradition
 - Question your motive
 - Glorify God
 - Actions speak of your Christianity
- Maintain Good Citizenship
 - Recognize Government
 - Obey the law
 - Exhibit Justice in Love
 - Expectation of God
 - Live the Life
 - Respect All
 - Love Fellow Christians
 - Respect the Office...King, President, Govenor, etc.

THE HARD TEXT...MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPECT

13

- Masters, Leaders, Rulers, Kings, Presidents, etc. have a responsibility
 - Show Respect
 - Display Love
 - Worship God
 - Honor Leader
- Servants are to Submit themselves to their master as submitting to Christ
- For it is commendable because of your knowledge of God
- The suffering and unjust treatment is known and seen by God
- Christ suffered to the point of death unjustly on our behalf

Slavery is not condoned by the Bible. The Bible acknowledges the fact that people are in situation of slavery and points out the character of God despite the circumstances voluntary or involuntary.

The Lord desires for the believer to be indebt to no one or anything...He desires your **FREEDOM IN HIM.**

CONCLUSION

15

- As a Christian in hostile circumstances
 - Growth is necessary for the believer
- Believers have been chosen by God as HIS special people
- Christian are expected to live God's expectations