

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF THE LORD

1 PETER 2:9-12

The following are resource questions that you can use with your Care Group for discussion. They are based on the sermon preached on Sunday, August 15 2010, by Rev (Dr) E N Poulson at the Grace Baptist Church, Singapore. The sermon is available online at <http://www.gracebap.org.sg/worship/series.html>.

AUGUST 15, 2010

INTRODUCTION

By means of exhortation (2:1-3) and instruction (2:4-10), Peter provides teaching on the responsibilities of believers living in a hostile world.

In our new situation, Christians are to be marked with a deep longing. The image of a newborn baby longing for its mother's milk (v. 2) eloquently points out that the Christian should turn instinctively toward all that is spiritual and thus of lasting value. In the end, it is not human success that measures the quality of a human being, but those deeper, qualities that can be simply described as "spiritual."

Yet, it is not easy, in the face of ridicule and rejection, to set their hearts and minds on the goodness of God instead of the attractions of a godless society. What can we learn from this Study?

NOT 'A PEOPLE' – BUT GOD'S PEOPLE

An Assurance - Believers are told that they are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.' Images once used to address Israel are now applied to the Gentiles (Isa 43:20; Ex 19:6; Deut 7:6-9).

An Application - But it is not enough to be aware of the afore-mentioned privileges which flow from being God's chosen....it bears its responsibilities.

DISCUSSION:

Believers are to proclaim the mighty acts of God which made their transformation from nothingness. The believers have now received mercy, and this merciful act of God has been nowhere more clearly seen than in the establishment of the stone rejected by the builders which has become the cornerstone.

How often do you share (proclaim) with others about this new identity / reality in your life?

What are some of the problems (real or perceived) you face when you want to share?

What are some of the possibilities that you can create that would facilitate the proclamation of the mighty acts of God...including the Gospel?

How can you encourage your Care Group / GBC to embark on this goal of "proclamation"?

PRAYER:

God, guide us to be true followers of Jesus Christ, proclaiming your mighty acts, You who have called us out of darkness into light. Amen.