

## Offering Spiritual Sacrifices

### HOPE IN CONFLICT

- The Book of 1 Peter is written to a Very Anti-Christian society
- How can we have a Hope that reflects the Love of God in a time of stress, anxiety and animosity?
- Peter begins by reminding us we were born again to a LIVING HOPE! V3
- To fulfill the call to “Be Holy” we need to “prepare our minds for action” and “set our Hope on the grace that will be brought to us at the coming of Christ!”
- How can we have a Peace and Joy that looks beyond the current circumstances to the glory of the immortal God and the glory He has for us also?

### BEING HOLY PEOPLE

- Chp 2 calls us to be Holy people
- How do we become Holy?
- We consume the pure spiritual milk
- We will long for the Spiritual milk only if we have tasted and seen that the Lord is Good.
- We want more of what we find good!
- Vs. 4 We come to him...vs.5d to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.
- When we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good, we want to honour, to worship in a way acceptable to Jehovah.

### OFFERING SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES

- Six steps in the way God gets spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Him.
- 1. Jesus Christ, the Living Stone vs.4 - Isa.28:16; Ps.118:22
- 2. Those longing for Him, come to Him 4
- 3. We are shaped into Living Stones 5
- 4. We are built into a Spiritual House 5 – 1Cor.3:16
- 5. We are a Holy Priesthood
- 6. Spiritual Sacrifices are offered to God through Christ
- It is God’s work 1, our response 2, God’s work 3-5, our work 6

### OFFERING SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES

- What do people do when they believe in the existence of God, but feel they don't need Jesus to get to God?
- They try rituals and disciplines and sacrifices and vows and relics and virtues—but all in vain. Why?
- They see themselves as the cornerstone. The key to impressing God with their self-sacrificing behaviour.
- God says, sacrifices are only acceptable through Jesus Christ.
- The One the world and "religion" rejects is the One God has chosen as the Cornerstone, the most important block in the building, the one that sets the direction for the rest.
- That is offensive and a stumbling block to the rest.

### OFFERING SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES

- What are the spiritual sacrifices we are to make?
  - Our Bodies – Rom.12:1 – 1 Cor.10:31
  - Praise and Thanks – Heb.13:15
  - Acts of Love – Phil.4:18; Heb.13:16
- What we do from, through and for Christ when you them in reliance of the power of the Spirit.
- Is our worship Spiritual? If not, it is not acceptable to God.
- If it is, it is not because it is perfect but because it comes through Jesus.

### OFFERING SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES

- We get our power through the Spirit of Christ
- We get our content from the Word of God
- Our goal is the glory of Christ. That is the only worship God accepts.
- The spiritual sacrifices are offered by a Holy Priesthood vs.9
- The Holy Priesthood is also a Spiritual house Eph.2:19-22; 1Cor.6:19
- How are we being built into a Spiritual House?
- Verse 4 flows from 3 which flows from 2. 2 motivates 4

### OFFERING SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES

- Where are you in this process?
- Have you "tasted and seen" that the Lord is good?
- Are you coming to the Living Stone or are you looking to people or books or self discipline or "religious systems"?
- Jesus is the power for transformation feeding your soul.
- Holy Living is the outcome. Not being a good person, being Holy