

**BIG IDEA: We're called to live & proclaim the excellencies of God in a world that rejects him.**

### 1) INTRO

- 2014 – NFL player TE Benjamin Watson on CNN – talking about our sin of pride & rebellion and points to JC as the cure and...cut off
- We live in a world that rejects God – Pledge of Allegiance in school, Lord's Prayer in schools
  - We shouldn't be surprised
  - BIG IDEA

### 2) vv1-3

- "So" – GRK ouv – same as "therefore, so, consequently, then"
  - 1:22 – love each other well – brothers/sisters in JC
  - 1:23 – "born again" – made new, given new life in JC, hope
  - 1:23-25 – word of God – teaching, instruction, gospel
  - 1:13-25 – all in context of holy living
- This same vein continues this week
- v1 shows us a list of sins to put away/do away with/rid yourselves
  - These don't define born again, new life, holy living people
  - Active vs passive
  - Malice – wants to hurt others
  - Deceit – wants people to believe what's not true
  - Hypocrisy – "I don't want you to know the real me"
  - Envy – when we're resentful of others' success
  - Slander – says bad things about someone to put them down
    - These aren't holy things...or loving things
  - Since born again, we love one another...we put away sin/strive for holy living
- B/c our appetites have changed...what we crave
  - Swiss Cake Rolls, Twinkies
  - v2 – long for/crave pure spiritual milk
    - This pure spiritual milk is the Word of God (vv22-25) – just as we have new birth/born again by the word
  - The only place we're fed spiritually is the Word

- We feel it when we're not being fed by the Word
- 1<sup>st</sup> semester of seminary – churches – be fed
- Same is true when we're out of rhythm/sync in our Bible time
  - New birth/born again people crave God's Word
    - Picture given is of an infant longing for milk
- v3 – IF we've tasted that the Lord is good (from Ps 34:8)
  - If we've truly tasted of the goodness of God, we'll be grossed out by our old sinful way of living...twinkies
- This is a stark contrast to the world we're living in as exiles/aliens
  - Very different...we'll be seen as different
  - Our desires/cravings are different
    - B/c JC gives us new desires that line up w/ his...as he's the one we orient our lives around

### 3) vv4-8

- We see in these vv that we orient our lives around JC...he's our sure foundation/cornerstone
- Remember theme is "Stand Firm in the True Grace of God" (5:12)
  - We cling to this truth as exiles/aliens in this world that's not our eternal home...still awaiting the new heavens/new earth
  - We live in this world that rejects God as we know him to be...as Lord and Savior
- But, as exiles here, we walk through this life on the truth of God's Word that JC is our cornerstone and that we belong to him
- We see these truths come forth in these verses
- v4 – "living stone" – the resurr JC is the living stone...he's alive forever & he's the giver of life to all who believe that he's the Son of God who washes our sin away
- v5 – shows us that as we come to JC, we're being built us as a spiritual house
  - The GRK word used for house
    - So, by virtue of our new birth, we make up the family of God...we're brothers & sisters in JC
  - And, the image of us as living stones placed with the living Stone (JC) shows our close relationship w/ him
    - Stones aren't isolated or in a pile, or scatted...but in place by our Father's perfect design

- We're all placed in his Church by his design...and we're all placed in his church – Arrowsmith – by his design
- We're placed here to glorify God by enjoying him and making him known as we exalt him as Lord and Savior
- Praying and seeking for ways to do that
- We're placed w/ him in this spiritual house/family "to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through JC"
  - In the OT, animals were sacrificed
    - We know they pointed ahead to JC, the ultimate sac
  - We're commanded here to offer spiritual sacrifices...what??
    - Same language as Rom 12:1
  - This section is placed right after talk of holy living
  - What follows in vv9-12 is proclaiming the excellencies of God
    - The spiritual sacrifices – obedience to him/holy living & praise to God...our pattern of living & worship of God
- v6 – when we believe in JC, our spiritual sacrifices are acceptable to
  - Our being built up as a spiritual house/part of his family is based only on the work of JC/the cornerstone
  - The cornerstone – the most important stone, 1<sup>st</sup> stone set
    - As believers, we square our lives to the plans & purposes of JC, our Savior & Lord who died for our sins to take the penalty we deserve and who rose from the dead in victory over sin & death
    - Matthew - wise on rock/foolish on sand
    - When he's the one we build our lives around, when we believe in him, his work, when we submit to his will, we'll be granted the glory of God's approval on that day
  - But not so for those reject the cornerstone...for those who don't orient their lives around JC
  - They'll stumble & disobey as they were destined to do...disbelieve and follow their hearts, rather than God
  - Truth in tension – God's sov & human responsibility (Rom 9)
    - Flip side of coin of v1...makes us humble
      - Paul & song – I will boast in JC

- Remembering we're elect exiles, the encouraging part for us believers is that our adversaries can't thwart God's plans
- Peter continues showing how we're called to offer sacrifices to God

#### 4) vv9-12

- Peter fleshes out the other avenue of our spiritual sacrifices here
- The area of praising God/proclaiming his excellencies/shining brightly for him
  - Contrast here w/ v8...God setting his cov love on us
  - As he's called us out of darkness, we can't help but be humbled that we belong to him...undeserving as we are
  - Like Lazarus – we were dead
  - We're now his people SO THAT we may proclaim his excel.
    - We're not lost, we belong to him, we have purpose, future, hope
      - Does that fuel us to exalt him/praise him?
- Speak & live
  - Here it's with our actions/the way we live
  - By living honorably among unbelievers – fighting our sinful passions – they may see we're different & glorify God
    - Our Godly living/conduct may help win them over
    - The things of v1 are disgusting in others, but w/out HS we're blind to them in our own lives
- How's our witness? Do we look different? Or blend in?

#### 5) CLOSING

- Rosaria Butterfield – professor of English & Women's Studies at Syracuse University...lesbian, gay activist who was invited by a pastor and his wife to join their family for dinner and she accepted b/c she was writing a book and saw it as research...it ended up becoming a genuine friendship...they were hospitable (which is a characteristic of the LGBTQ community)...she started to read the Bible & HS began to convict and came to genuine saving faith in 1999 and turned from her old way of living. She's now married to a Presbyterian pastor and is a mom.
- Are we living to make the excellencies of JC known?
  - We have opportunities at work, school, friendships, etc