

<sup>2:1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house<sup>a</sup> to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> 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.”<sup>b</sup>*

<sup>7</sup> 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,”<sup>c</sup>* and, *“A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”<sup>d</sup>*

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

### Review the context.

- In Chapter 1, Peter established that our identity and “new birth” is through the person of Christ. Why did the early church need such encouragement?

### Understand it.

- How does our “old self” still appear in our reborn spiritual lives? What does it mean to “rid yourself” of these unhealthy actions and diseases of the heart?
- In what ways have you craved or consumed “spiritual milk” and how could you desire that which fuels our growth in salvation?
- What makes the “living stone” of Jesus be a helpful and encouraging image/metaphor for those who trust Jesus? (*Also, consider the references from Isaiah and Psalms.*)
- Conversely, what makes this stone be frustrating to those who do not trust him?
- As the cornerstone (literally, *head corner*) how has Jesus established his Kingdom and its people?
- How does verse 9 reveal the *purpose* of our new identity in Christ? (*also verse 5*)

### Apply it.

- In verse 4, Peter assumes that his readers (the Church) are coming to Jesus for strength and comfort. What are some things you turn to that insufficiently try to comfort you? How can Christians even rely on *good things* that try to meet our spiritual needs *instead* of the person of Christ?
- Read the passage above again and underline anything that is a description of the new identity that God’s people have in Christ. Pick *one of these phrases* and reflect on how it is meaningful to you.

<sup>a</sup> 1 Peter 2:5 Or into a temple of the Spirit

<sup>b</sup> 1 Peter 2:6 Isaiah 28:16

<sup>c</sup> 1 Peter 2:7 Psalm 118:22

<sup>d</sup> 1 Peter 2:8 Isaiah 8:14