

This week we are continuing our study of the New Testament letter of 1 Peter. In this section of our text we see Peter using metaphors and symbols from the Old Testament Temple to help us understand the work of God in his church. As we move through this text we must understand the significance of the Jewish temple, and acknowledge the supremacy of Jesus as the foundation for a new and eternal temple.

Sermon Outline:

1 Peter 2:4-12 (The New Temple)

God promises to make his home in the midst of his people. (Exodus 25:8-9; 22)

Solomon builds a permanent home for God on the temple mount in Jerusalem.

For 1,000 Years **THE TEMPLE WAS:**

- The way to God
- The hope of God's people
- God's home

Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple (Matt. 24:1-2)

"as you come to him" Jesus is the one and only way to God.

"a living stone" He is our strength, and foundation ... but also a life giving spirit.

"rejected by men ... chosen of God"

Those who should have received him, crucified him instead.

"you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house" Those who come to Christ are transformed from death to life and are being built together into a new home for God.

Where is God's home? Wherever his people are!

"to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" We have access to God's presence. We serve God and reflect his glory and goodness to the world ... just like the temple & priests once did.

Verses 6-8 – The prophetic evidence.

Verses 9-10 – Our identity in Christ.

Verses 11-12 – The way we live. It should reflect the character and nature of the God we serve.

Would your life pass the **"That guy/gal goes to church!"** test?

Suggested Discussion Questions:

- Do you have any old sayings or metaphors that you like to use? Share with the group. (eg. Don't put all your eggs in one basket, 800 lb gorilla, batten down the hatches)
- Was it helpful to hear about the Jewish tabernacle and temple? What stood out to you most?
- We know what *"come to the temple"* means, but what do you think Peter has in mind when he says *"as you come to him"*?
- If we are the temple of God ... how should that reflect in our lives, thoughts, & behaviours?
- Is it helpful to think of yourself as a holy priesthood? If so, why?
- Do you think the "that guy/gal goes to church!" test is a helpful one? Has anyone ever noticed something different about you? Have you ever noticed something different about a follower of Jesus that drew you to him?
- Pray together.

Additional Reading / Devotions:

- You are the temple (1 Cor 3:10-17)
- Implications on lifestyle (1 Cor 6:15-20)
- God no longer lives in a stone building (Acts 17:24)
- Ephesians 2:19-22