



## GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE

**SCRIPTURAL LESSON:** *I Peter 2:1-10*

**GOSPEL TRUTH:**

To be counted as one of God's chosen people is to accept and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Corner Stone and foundation of our lives on this earth, and the only pathway that will lead to eternal life (*I Corinthians 3:11*).

**GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:**

*For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth (Deuteronomy 7:6).*

**THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:**

1. God's people adhere and receive the Word of God with humility (*James 1:21*).
2. God's people are not carnally (after the flesh) minded, but spiritually minded (*Romans 8:4-11*).
3. God's people are water-washed, Spirit-filled, and walk in the light of God daily (*John 3:5; Acts 2:38; I Peter 1:23-25*).
4. God's people are "peculiar" and "zealous of good works" (*Titus 2:11-14*).

**BACKGROUND SETTING:**

The Apostle Peter wrote his epistles to encourage, prepare, and to help believers in Jesus Christ and to forewarn them of the certain persecutions and sufferings they would be faced with. His letters gave a personal account of his experiences with Jesus and highlighted examples of how Christians should count it a privilege and honor to suffer for Christ's sake since our Savior shed His blood on the cross, died, and was resurrected for each

of us. Peter further articulated in his letters that believers were newborn babes desiring the "milk of the word" and "lively stones" who make up the building stones and foundation to help the Church serve believers and convert unbelievers toward God. Believers who "in times past were not a people, but are now the people of God" and further described as a "chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, and a peculiar people." Peter's epistle also revealed that the "Chief Corner Stone" of this foundation for the Church and its people was our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (*I Peter 2:1-10*).

**LESSON SUMMARY:**

Are Peter's epistles still relevant today? What does it take to be one of God's chosen people? The sign of the times are all around us of how iniquity is abounding in this sin-cursed world. Persecution of believers who stand for truth and righteousness in Jesus Christ has increased as Christian values have been compromised and the *Word of God* has been abandoned. Undoubtedly, Apostle Peter's letters are even more relevant today. *Romans 12:1* says: "...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Savior, to live with the mind and Spirit of Christ, and to spread brotherly love and charity are all giant steps in being a part of God's chosen people. Jesus' words in *Matthew 7:14* reflects, "*Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*" We count it a blessing everyday to strive to honor Jesus Christ, to obey His directives, and to stay in the center of His will.

In *Malachi 3:17*, it states: "*And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.*" Wouldn't you desire to be a part of God's chosen people; someone He calls "mine" and one of His precious jewels?

Associate Pastor Ronald Han, Jr.