

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church – Monongahela, Pa.
Adult Bible Study
The Apostles' Teaching – The Epistles of St. Peter
Session 2

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship
to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)*

I. CHAPTER 2:1-10

- A. *For review:* From **1 Peter 1:6** and **4:12** What might be the reason St. Peter wrote this letter to these churches?
- B. Because of what St. Peter says has been done for his readers in **1:18-19**; what is now expected from them? **2:1-3**

For reflection: Which one of these vices (if any) represents your biggest challenge at the moment? What are you doing to overcome this weakness in your life?

- C. In chapter 1 St. Peter described Jesus as *lamb*, now He is described as a *living stone*. This metaphor comes from the Old Testament. see **Isaiah 28:16** (p. 1079) and **Matthew 21:42** (p. 1310)

1. What does it mean that Christ is the cornerstone?

- D. He then describes Christians themselves as *living stones*. What does he mean?

E. How am I part of the *holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices*?

- F. In verses **2:6-8**, St. Peter describes Jesus either as a precious cornerstone of a spiritual house or as a stumbling block? Describe the type of person that would experience Jesus in these varied ways?

G. Why might it have been difficult for St. Peter's readers to see themselves the way he describes them in v. **9-10**? Is this description what they are now or what they will become?

1. How does this apply to me?

II. CHAPTER 2:11-25

In the first part of his letter, St. Peter describes the *identity* of the people of God, now he focuses on their *responsibilities* as these new people.

A. After telling us that we are *a chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation....* St. Peter now says we are *sojourners and pilgrims*. What does he mean?

B. Because they are living in a pagan society facing persecution, St. Peter now elaborates on v. **12** giving specific instructions to various groups. Why would he give this command in v. 13 knowing the persecution they are facing?

C. When is it required to ignore St. Peter's teaching in v. 13? see also **Acts 5:26-29** (p. 1477)

D. In v. 18, St. Peter addresses servants or slaves. Slavery was a reality in this first century and St. Peter does not advocate resistance or rebellion? Why? What does he say in this letter that improves their situation?

(The epistle to Philemon is the most complete statement of this whereby the master Philemon is instructed to receive the slave Onesimus as a brother and not a slave.)

E. How can the sufferings of Christ help these servants?

1. How can the sufferings of Christ help us in situations we cannot control?

F. How can a person in authority misuse this section of St. Peter's epistle?

G. What *authorities* do I live under? How can I apply St. Peter's teaching to my life?

H. List the ways Jesus' death has impacted your life:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.