

A Study of The Epistle of 1st Peter

Theme: “A LIVING HOPE!”

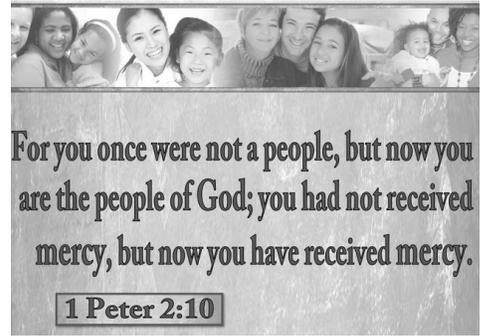
Trinity Lutheran Church - Norman, OK.

Pastor David R. Nehrenz – www.tlcnorman.org

Lesson: 15

Chapter 2:10-12

Date: 11-15-20



BIBLE TEXT:

(10) Once you were not a people, but now you are **God's** people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

(11) Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

(12) Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and **glorify God on the day of visitation.**

STUDY NOTES:

A. Once you were not a people, but now you are **God's** people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

(Hos 1:6-10; 2:1,22,23; Rom 9:25,26; 10:19)

B. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

(Rom 13:13-14; 1 Cor 10:14; Gal 5:16,24; Heb 11:13; Jas 4:1)

C. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and **glorify God on the day of visitation**

(Mt 5:16; 9:8; Lk 19:44; 2 Cor 8:21; 9:13; Gal 1:24; Php 2:15; Titus 2:8,14)

Luther's Works – Volume 30 pp. 65-66

That you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Thus we see that the first and foremost duty we Christians should perform is to proclaim **the wonderful deeds of God**. Now what are the wonderful deeds and the noble works God has done? They are the deeds and works we have often mentioned, namely, that by **the power of God Christ** has swallowed up death, devoured hell, drunk sin to the dregs, and placed us into eternal life. These are such great deeds that man cannot understand them, let alone perform them.

Therefore it is completely useless to preach human doctrines to us Christians. No, one should preach to us about the kind of power that overcomes the devil, sin, and death. And here St. Peter has again referred to many Scripture passages, just as throughout his writings he nearly always quotes one verse after the other.

For all the prophets say that **God's name and honor**, and **His arm or power**, should be honored and praised, and that He would perform a deed of which the whole world would sing and speak. The prophets are full of this everywhere. Here St. Peter points to all these places. Moreover, the prophets also said much about light and darkness. They said that we must be illumined with **the light of God**. In this way they also show that all human reason is darkness. St. Peter continues:

Once you were no people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This verse is found in Hos. 2:23. St. Paul also quoted it in Rom. 9:25, where he says: "Those who were not My people I will call My people." All this points to the fact **that Almighty God** chose the people of Israel in particular, conferred great honor on them, gave them many prophets, and also performed many miraculous deeds with them because **He wanted Christ to become man from this nation**. All this took place for the sake **of the Child**. For this reason they are called **God's people** in Scripture. But the prophets amplify this and said that this promise should become known and should also concern the Gentiles.

Therefore St. Peter says here: "Once you were no people, but now **you are God's people**." From this it is clear that he wrote the epistle to the Gentiles, not to the Jews. With these words he now wants to point out that the statement of the prophet has now been fulfilled, that they are now **a holy nation, God's own people, the priesthood and kingdom, and that they have everything Christ has—provided that they believe**.

LIFE APPLICATION

If now we are **God's** people;
and have received mercy,
how do we declare the wonderful deeds of Him
who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light?

