

1 Peter 2:2-10 ESV

Alive in Christ and Aligned with Christ, Believers Proclaim God's Goodness!

Sunday, May 18 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, May 19 at 7 PM

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 2014

Our Summer Schedule, [June – August](#), begins on June 1[Sundays: Service 9; Refreshments 10:10; Classes 10:30](#)[Mondays: Service 7 PM](#)

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: ***We are so blessed to know Jesus as our Savior!*** Therefore, we → are spiritually hungry, → want to imitate Jesus, and → desire to tell others about God's great goodness!

1. **Believers Hunger, Eat, and Grow Spiritually:**

² [Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation--](#) ³ [if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.](#) //



- a. Think about an infant: He is hungry, so he gets his mother's attention by crying, **but** picking him up is not enough, **nor** is he satisfied by his pacifier *because his desire is for milk – for physical nourishment!* Only that will satisfy and enable the child to grow up physically! Furthermore, the more he eats, *the more he grows*; **and** the more he grows, *the more he eats!* And how long does a human being continue to eat? *Until he physically dies!*

- b. Think about a believer: Infants are physically alive, *while believers are spiritually alive* – so they ♦get hungry, ♦eat God's Word, and ♦grow up in Christ! As infants desire milk, so Peter is urging us – *as believers* – to long for spiritual milk, *thus the nourishment of God's Holy Word!*
- i. Parents: Feed your children! If you are feeding them God's Word every day – *good*; if not – *repent, change, turn to what they need as growing believers!*
- ii. Youth and Adults: God has taken action to make us alive in Christ; therefore, let us recognize our spiritual hunger, feed on God's Word every day, and be strong in Jesus Christ!

2. **Believers Are Aligned with the Corner Stone:**

⁴ [As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,](#) ⁵ [you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.](#) //

So our building and many buildings have a cornerstone, but what was the ORIGINAL purpose of a cornerstone? **“The cornerstone concept is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation, important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining**



the position of the entire structure.”¹ Therefore, Jesus is the Cornerstone or Living stone – *the One from which we have the gift of spiritual life!* We have been placed in alignment with Him, *as part of God’s spiritual house, “to be a holy priesthood...”* – to serve the Ultimate High Priest by †saying “yes” to His will and “no” to sin, †sharing God’s Word, and †praying for those in need!

⁶ For it stands in Scripture:

- a. [Isaiah 28:16] **“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”** // Some people *THINK they will be fine without Jesus* but they will be shamed forever, while **believers will be blessed forever!**
- b. ⁷ **So the honor [privilege] is for you who believe [we are so blessed through Jesus], but for those who do not believe,**
 - i. [Psalm 118:22] **“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”** // Some see Jesus as a loser – *so they reject Him!* But **believers, even in the face of great difficulty**, continue to believe in Jesus because *He is the Ultimate Cornerstone!*
 - ii. ⁸ **and [Isaiah 8:14] “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” [Then Peter commented:] They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.** // To **believers** Jesus is

EVERYTHING, *so they desire to obey the Word!* But some are blinded to the truth about Jesus, *so they reject Him and His ways!*

3. **Believers Announce God’s Truth to Others:** ⁹ **But you are a chosen race [people], a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.** 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.** // So, *from conception*, we were dead in our sins, but God has †*united* us to Jesus and †*aligned* us with Jesus; therefore, *through* Jesus, we ♦*have* received God’s mercy and ♦*are* God’s people! Now, *overflowing with gratitude*, we live out His blessed purpose for us: To **“proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light.”**

Conclusion: Now, knowing we are believers and forgiven in God’s sight, let us *gladly* and *daily* → satisfy our spiritual hunger, → imitate our Lord Jesus, and → announce God’s truth about *our sin* and *His saving work* to others!

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

For Much More: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

Having been saved thru Jesus, let us live for Him and share the good news!
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornerstone>