

## The House that God Built

*1 Peter 2:4-10*

### I. Scripture reading: 1 Peter 2

**II. The House that God Built:** We continue our search for understanding about who we are called to be and what we are called to do. Here in 1 Peter 2, we can see that we are called to be a spiritual house built by God Himself on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ and completed by the capstone, Jesus Christ. Before we look at our role as the spiritual house of God, let's see what Peter had to say about our Master Jesus. Of course, our calling is modeled after Him, so we are, like him, living stones.

**III. The Living Stone** Jesus is alive! As he told John on the island of Patmos, "I am the living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades" (Rev. 1:18). Jesus is alive, hallelujah! He is the Stone that lives because God raised him from the dead on the third day. **Rejected but Chosen...** Jesus was flat-out rejected by the people of the world. Only a comparative few truly trusted and followed the Master up to and following His death. "He came to his own, but his own did not receive him" (1 John 1:11). As Paul related to the Corinthians, the crucified Messiah is foolishness to the Greeks and a stumbling stone for the Jews (1 Cor. 1). Also, the rulers of the world didn't understand who he was or they wouldn't have crucified him (1 Cor. 2:8). Rejected as he was by men, he was specially chosen by God to be the Lord and Savior of all the world. **The Cornerstone...** Jesus was the beginning of God's work of salvation and he is the standard by which all of God's salvation work is shown to be perfectly right. **The Capstone...** Jesus is the completion of God's salvation work. He is to be celebrated as the crowning glory of God's doings for all of mankind – Jew and Gentile alike.

**IV. A Spiritual House [Ephesians 2:1-22; 1 Cor. :16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16]** Just as Jesus is a living stone, so are we living stones. We are alive because God has given us new birth through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. We are being brought together to build an eternal edifice that will never be destroyed. We must be brought together to be a building, you see? Various stones scattered around do not a building make. Yet we are the temple of God on earth. We are the people of God in whom the Spirit dwells, and so we must commit ourselves entirely to being holy and honorable to him. The temple is sacred according to Paul because the Spirit dwells there. Let us honor the sacred status given us through Christ!