



## **The Excellencies of Christ**

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

**Study Guide**

- 1. Take a few minutes to review the flow of thought in 1 Peter 2. As children of God we are responsible to grow to maturity (2:1-3). How does this come about? It happens by longing for the “pure milk of the word.” Children of God are responsible to offer up spiritual sacrifices (2:4-8). By coming to the Living Stone we are built up into a spiritual house. But the Chief Cornerstone, Jesus Christ, is a stone of stumbling to those who will not believe in Him (2:7-8). It is disobedience to the gospel that causes the unbeliever to stumble and fall into eternal destruction.**
- 2. With all this in mind ponder the words “But you” in 2:9. What is our responsibility as children of God according to verse 9? That purpose is stated in the latter part of the verse. However, in proceeding to our calling as Christians Peter describes our status. What four facts distinguish the believer from the unbeliever? Explain the sense in which the believer is part of a royal priesthood?**
- 3. You will notice that these descriptions of the church are similar to those used of Israel in the Old Testament (Ex. 19:6). Some would interpret this to mean that the church is the “new Israel.” Is this true? Some who**
- believe this use Romans 9:6 and Galatians 6:16? From a careful reading of these verses and your understanding of Matthew 21:33-44 and Romans 11:1-10 what is the relationship of the church to Israel? Has Israel been disinherited and has the church inherited Israel’s promises? You may not be able to answer this in a thorough way, but it will be helpful to write down your understanding of the issues involved.**
- 4. The message that we are to proclaim to the world consists of the excellencies of Christ (2:9). What does the word “excellencies” mean? Look up John 3:19; Ephesians 6:12, 2 Peter 2:4 and John 8:12. What does it mean to be transferred from darkness to light? What was the darkness? What is the light? How has this been evident in your own life? Give one example.**
- 5. Peter quotes Hosea 2:23 in 2:10 to explain “out of darkness into His marvelous light.” Like Israel we have now experienced mercy, but formerly we had not. What was it that separated us from God? What is it that bridges this infinite gap between us as sinners and God who is absolutely holy?**
- 6. Can you think of someone who needs to hear about God’s mercy in Jesus Christ? Is there a nation other than America that you are praying for in a special way? What are you doing to be involved in declaring to the nations the excellencies of Christ? List some possibilities? Pray about them.**