As Living Stones

Ken Chapman · 1 Peter 2:4–10

INTRODUCTION

- Our annual theme is how firm a foundation.
- There is no foundation without Jesus Christ.
- We want to talk about ourselves and our role in being a part of this structure that God has built and is building.

1 A Living Temple Is Just Better

- First observation that we can make is that a living temple is just better. Living is better than non-living.
- The old covenant temple was never intended by God to be the end.
- The sacrifices that were offered there, the blood of bulls and goats, could never take away sins.
- If God made something and instituted something that wasn't perfect, that should be a major clue that God's not finished with this yet.
- It's not an inanimate, cold structure. It's a living, an active and personal temple to God.

2 Living Stones Can Praise God

1 Peter 2:5; 1 Peter 2:9

- The new covenant temple isn't just a place where God can be praised, but that this temple praises God itself.
- You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- We are the stones in this temple, and we are the priesthood who enters that temple, and we are to offer that praise.
- Praise is not to be limited to the four walls of this auditorium.
- Let us not be silent. Let us do what we've been called to do, and that's to praise Him.

3 Living Stones Can Grow and Improve

1 Peter 2:1–2; 2 Peter 3:18; Romans 6:1

- The beauty and the benefit of a living building, of a living stone, is that we can grow. We can improve.
- As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.
- Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- If we're not dynamic, if we're not growing and improving, then we're defeating what Christ has called us to do and to be.
- Knowledge in the New Testament conveys much more than just this accumulation of facts. It has to do with this idea of our knowing God.

- You grow in your grace. In the grace that you show to others. You love as he has loved, you forgive as he has forgiven.

4 Each Stone Is a Dwelling Place of God

John 4; 1 Corinthians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 6:19

- God is not just dwelling in us corporately. Because we are all living stones in this temple. God dwells within each one of us.
- This temple is better. Because man can worship God in this living system everywhere and anywhere.
- We take a little bit of the temple of God with us wherever we go.
- The temple of God is holy, which temple you are.
- Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God.
- As living stones, we don't just come to church, we are the church.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **And so let's be the temple of God. That better temple as living stones, called to praise God and called to be the dwelling place of God in a living and dynamic way.**

MY NOTES