

A sunset scene with a large, bright sun partially obscured by a dark, semi-transparent horizontal band. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. Below the band, there is a silhouette of a landscape with trees and hills. The overall image has a textured, halftone-like appearance.

RENEW. REBUILD. REKINDLE.

1 Pet.2:4a-b

*“The Spiritual Description of a Believer Who Lives a Renewed Life.”*

1 Pet. 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

4 To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, **to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**

I. THE QUESTION OF SALVATION, 1:5-8

II. THE QUESTION OF SCRIPTURE, 1:9-12

III. THE QUESTION OF SANCTIFICATION

IV. THE QUESTION OF SEPARATION, 2:1-12

A. Its Requirement, 2:1

B. Its Reasons, 2:2-11

1. Separation by Birth from the Old Life, 2:2-3

2. Separation by Belief from the Old Life, 2:4-10

a. The Preciousness of Christ, 2:4-8

(1) The Living Stone and Its Character, 2:4

(a) The Stone Described, 2:4a “To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone...”

(b) The Stone Discarded, 2:4b

“...disallowed indeed of men...”

Three weeks ago we considered “*The Spiritual Appetite of a Renewed Mind.*” The next week we focused upon “*The Spiritual Description of a Believer Who Lives a Renewed Life.*” This morning, we will continue looking at that description as we consider the “*living stone.*”

(c) The Stone Displayed, 2:4c—d

❖ Believers get a view of Christ from God’s perspective:

i. Its Vitality, 2:4c "...but chosen of God..."

❖ The illustration is a revelation that the Creator has a plan for mankind that was centered around His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Original Word:** ἐκλεκτός

**Transliteration:** eklektos

**Definition:** select, by implication favorite

*eklektós* (an adjective, derived from *eklégomai*, "to select, choose," also used as a substantive/noun) – **properly, selected (chosen from, out of), especially as a deeply personal choice** – literally "*chosen, out of* a personal preference (intention)." (*eklegomai*).

❖ To reject Christ is to reject the Creator and His plan for mankind.

ii. Its Value, 2:4d  
“...*and* precious,”

**Original Word:** ἔντιμος

**Transliteration:** entimos

**Definition:** valued, precious

**Usage:** (held precious, hence) precious, honored, honorable in rank.

*éntimos* – **properly, hold *in* honor, in a *state* (condition) of *personal respect*.**

❖ The believer holds Christ in high esteem, of highest respect.

1 Pet. 2:7 **Unto you therefore which believe *he is precious***: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

(2) The Living Stone and Its Companions,  
2:5

(a) A New Likeness Revealed, 2:5a  
“Ye also, as lively stones...”

❖ Peter saw the believers as a living "spiritual house", in which each new believer, as "lively stones," is a reflection of the Savior.

(b) A New Location Revealed, 2:5b  
"...are built up a spiritual house..."

❖ Each Christian is one of the essential "stones" that enables the whole structure to fulfill its purpose (cf. Matt. 16:15-18).

❖ This verse helps us appreciate how much we need each other as Christians. God has a purpose for all of us to fulfill together, that we cannot fulfill individually on our own.



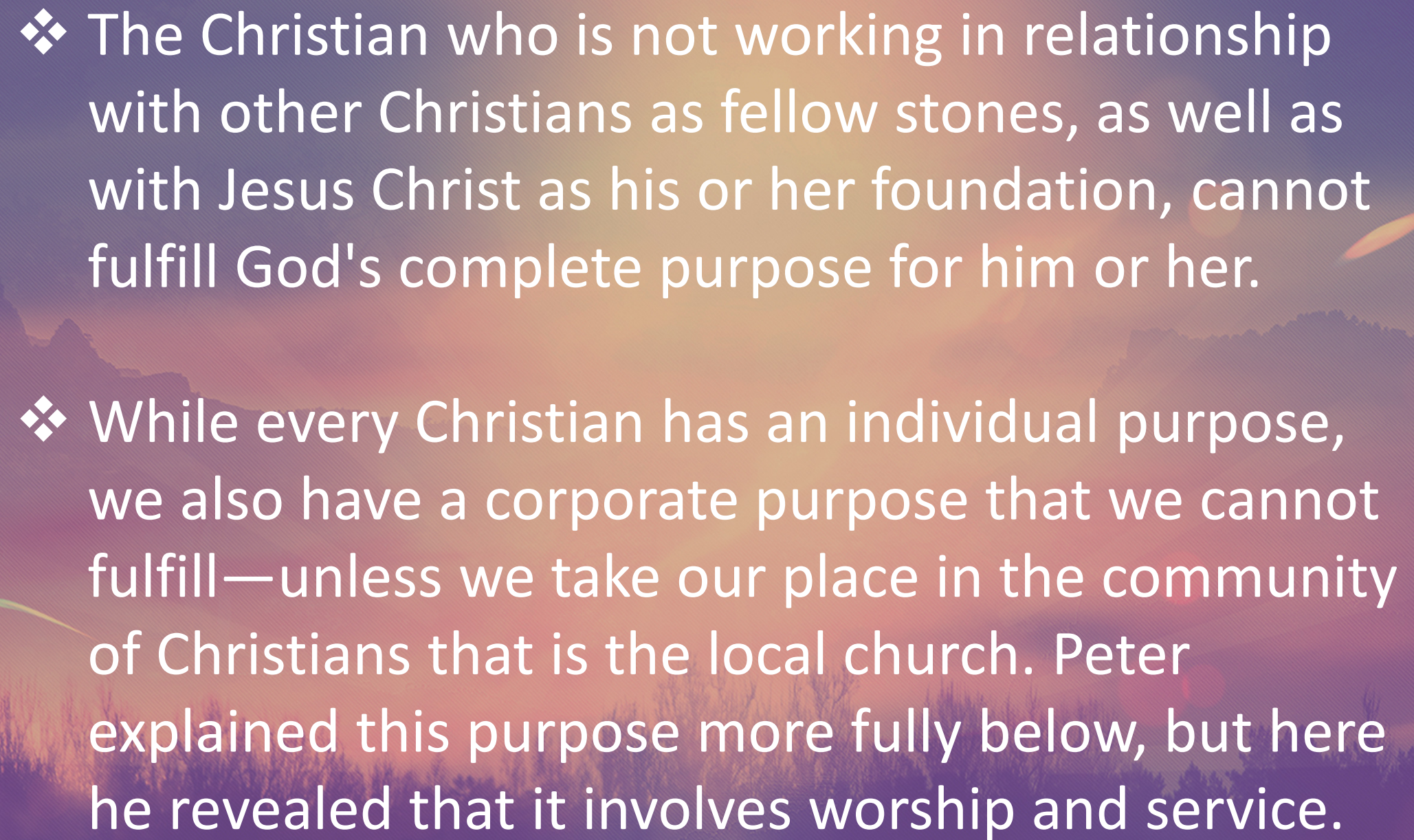
❖ Believers are “under construction,” being “built up” for His glory.

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, **that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

Phil. 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.**

(c) A New Lineage Revealed, 2:5c—e

i. A New Priesthood Ordained,  
2:5c “...an holy priesthood...”

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- ❖ The Christian who is not working in relationship with other Christians as fellow stones, as well as with Jesus Christ as his or her foundation, cannot fulfill God's complete purpose for him or her.
  - ❖ While every Christian has an individual purpose, we also have a corporate purpose that we cannot fulfill—unless we take our place in the community of Christians that is the local church. Peter explained this purpose more fully below, but here he revealed that it involves worship and service.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, **which is your reasonable service.**

ii. A New Priority Observed,  
2:5d—e

*a. Spiritual Sacrifices are Now Offered, 2:5d “...to offer up spiritual sacrifices...”*

❖ Verse 5 is describing...

- who we are – “lively stones”
- why we are – because Christ is the “living stone”
- what we do – “offer up spiritual sacrifices”

Heb. 13:15 By him therefore **let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually**, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for **with such sacrifices God is well pleased.**

*b. Successful Sacrifices are Now Offered, 2:5e “...acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”*

❖ A believer’s standard of approval is to be “...acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

Phil. 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, **an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.**

Heb. 11:6 But **without faith *it is impossible to please him***: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

## Conclusion

*“The Spiritual Appetite of a Renewed Mind”* leads to *“The Spiritual Description of a Believer Who Lives a Renewed Life.”* The Bible clearly teaches that a believer in Christ lives life with a different focus, purpose, and commitment than an unbeliever does. We are to be like Christ, representing Him, with our lives, for His glory!

2 Cor. 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For **God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

7 But **we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**