



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The First Catholic Epistle of St. Peter

## Chapter 2

Bishop Youssef



# Introduction

- St. Peter admonishes his readers to put aside sinful attitudes and to grow spiritually (1-3)
- He then depicts Jesus as a living stone, and Christians as living stones (4-10)
- As the people of God, Christians are sojourners and pilgrims in this world (11-17)
- Christian slaves are told to submit to their masters, even when they are harsh and cause them to suffer grief wrongly (18-25)

# A Call To Spiritual Growth (2:1-3)



- Therefore: In view of the salvation and duty of brotherly love pointed out in 1 Pet 1:22
- Laying aside: The things to be laid aside are inconsistent with brotherly love
- Malice: The mental state opposed to love
- Deceit: The mental state opposed to sincerity
- Hypocrisy: Deceit exhibited in word and deed
- Envy: Love does not envy (1 Cor 13:4)
- Evil speaking: Speaking evil of others

# A Call To Spiritual Growth (2:1-3)



- As newborn babes: The new birth has been spoken of in 1 Pet 1:23. They are babes in Christ
- Babes hunger for milk. Let babes in Christ earnestly desire the sincere milk of the word
- Pure: The spiritual milk which is without guile
- This word, unadulterated, is the food upon which Christians must feed in order to grow
- If indeed: This is the proper food for those who have tasted that the Lord is gracious, and so, they have been converted. See Ps 34:9

# The Chosen Stone and His Chosen People (2:4-10)



- Christ is called a Stone, or Rock, as the foundation upon which we build our spiritual life, and church
- A living stone because He imparts life to all who build upon him, and himself lives eternally
- Rejected by the Jewish nation
- But chosen by God. Not of men but of God who raised Him from the dead. See also 1 Pet 2:6
- Precious: In Himself, in the sight of God, and in the eyes of all believers

# The Chosen Stone and His Chosen People (2:4-10)



- Christians, born again to eternal life, become living stones also built into the spiritual temple (the church) of which Christ is the corner stone
- A holy priesthood. Christ, the High Priest, has anointed them all as priests in His spiritual house
- Spiritual sacrifices: See Heb 13:15; Ps 50:23; Hos 14:3; Rom 12:1. The sacrifices of the Christians are prayer, praise, good deeds, the consecration of our bodies and substance to God's service

# The Chosen Stone and His Chosen People (2:4-10)



- The quote is from Isa 28:16, also in Rom 9:33
- Hence God had foretold that Christ should be a Living Stone (1 Pet 2:4)
- St. Peter did not quote the full passage which declares He is a tried stone, a sure foundation
- Elect: chosen by God (1 Pet 2:4)
- Precious. Since it is the chief corner stone, without which the structure could not be built
- Hence this stone is a person, and faith in Him is the basis of salvation

# The Chosen Stone and His Chosen People (2:4-10)



- Therefore: The prophecy is now applied
- Precious: because they were promised that he who believes on Him shall not be Ashamed (1 Pet 2:6)
- Those who do not believe and hence, disobey; should know that the stone which the builders rejected (Ps 118:22) had become the Head of God's spiritual temple
- He is to the disobedient, a stone over which they stumble and fall



# The Chosen Stone and His Chosen People (2:4-10)



- The unbelievers stumble, fall, and perish for ever; God having appointed from all eternity, He that does not believe shall be condemned
- Chosen generation: An elect race, like ancient Israel. We are now the chosen people (Isa 43:21)
- Royal priesthood Ex 19:6, a kingdom of priests. The believers are like Christ, priest-kings
- Holy nation: Set apart to God
- Special people: for God's own possession Differing from the world in life

# The Chosen Stone and His Chosen People (2:4-10)



- They differ from the world that their holy lives may shine as a light and honor God
- In this verse and 1 Pet 2:10 St. Peter surely has in mind Gentile Christians
- Not a people of God. See Hoa 2:23
- The prophets in many places foretold the call of the Gentiles (Rom 9:25,26)
- They were not under the mercies of God but now they obtained mercy

# Living Before the World (2:11-12)



- As sojourners: we are, like the fathers (Heb 11:13), only pilgrims and sojourners on the earth, seeking for a better home
- Hence we should abstain from fleshly lusts, which would destroy our desire for that home
- Let your daily life be such as to refute slanderers
- The Jews often accused Christians to heathen rulers of being rebellious Acts 17:6

# Living Before the World (2:11-12)



- Because they rejected the heathen gods, they were accused of being atheists
- The best way to answer these charges was to prove the falsehood of these accusation by their Christian conduct Mt 5:16
- The day of visitation: The day when God will make all clear and the heathen shall be converted
- On that day they will glorify God because they observed your good works

# Submission to Government (2:13-17)



- Obey human laws because it is the Lord's will
- The Roman emperor was "supreme" in the Roman provinces to which this Epistle was addressed
- The governors were placed over the provinces of the Roman empire
- Rulers are necessary for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well
- Both to punish the evil and to reward the good is their duty Rom 13:1-6

# Submission to Government (2:13-17)



- It is God's will that thus you may silence the charge that you are rebellious persons
- As free: Christians, freed from the bondage of sin
- Not using your liberty as an excuse for wickedness because you chose to be bondservants of God
- Honor all people. Respect all regardless of who they are
- Love the brotherhood as Christ loved us
- Fear God: With reverential fear and honor His servant the king

# Submission to Masters (2:18-25)



- Servants: The Greek word here means slaves
- This may mean hired servants
- Be submissive: That is the duty of the relation
- True submission is not to the good masters only, but also to the harsh and perverse
- Commendable: Acceptable and praiseworthy
- If a man suffers wrong for conscience sake, God notes his suffering and approves of his conduct

# Submission to Masters (2:18-25)



- To bear with patience punishment for faults is no glory, but to bear patiently suffering inflicted for right doing is approved before God
- It is the experience of the Christian calling to suffer for right doing
- Even so Christ suffered. He is our example
- Who did no sin. He had no fault Isaiah 53:9
- He resented neither insults nor the sufferings inflicted upon Him



# Submission to Masters (2:18-25)



- He gave the judgment between Him and His enemies to God
- He died for our sins, not His, He took our burdens
- On the tree. The wood of the cross
- Crucified with Him (Rom 6:6), penitent, the repentant sinner is baptized into His death, and rising to a new life, lives to righteousness
- By whose stripes you were healed. (Isa 53:5-6), by His sufferings we were saved

# Submission to Masters (2:18-25)



- You were like sheep going astray: Led astray by sin and pleasures of the world
- Have now returned: By coming to Christ
- To the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls: The good Shepherd who died for the sheep; the Bishop who watches over and cares for them
- “The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous” (1 Pet 3:12)
- He gives us His spirit and feeds and guides us by His word



# Conclusion

- What must we lay aside to grow spiritually?
- How should we long for the Word if we want to grow spiritually?
- What should motivate us to desire the Word with such longing?
- What kind of stone is used to describe Jesus?
- What is Jesus to those who believe in Him? To those who do not believe?



# Conclusion

- What is the appointed end of those who do not believe and are disobedient
- How are Christians described by St. Peter? What is their duty? Why
- What is our duty as sojourners and pilgrims in this world? Why?
- What is our duty toward the governments of men? Why?
- How are we use our freedom in Christ



# Conclusion

- What four admonitions summarize our duties to others?
- What is the duty of servants to their masters?
- What is commendable before God?
- To what have we been called?
- How did Jesus suffer wrongly and bear it patiently?
- What good did Jesus accomplish by suffering such abuse (24-25)?