

The Purpose of FORWARD

1 Peter 2:1-10

Whatever GOD says or does, has Purpose. In fact, it is safe to conclude early on that GOD is the “All Purposeful One”. There is never a time GOD that enacts or allows something to happen in the affairs of people or in the greater world around us, without Purpose.

Therefore, as people of GOD and more importantly, as children of GOD, we too must be purposeful. Purposeful in our thinking. Purposeful in what we say and in what we do.

FOR OUR CONSIDERATION:

- The journey FORWARD requires the removal and disassociation with any and everything that is harmful to our spiritual health. Whatever works against our spirit is:
 - Contrary to the Holy Spirit AND,
 - Negatively affect our minds, bodies and emotions.
- Here are the items Peter specifies:
 - Malice-
 - Guile-
 - Insincerity-
 - Envy-
 - Slander-
- This opening verse is worth discussion because the apostle wants the exiled believers to be mindful that even though we are “saved”, sanctification and “being Christian”, is a process! Our individual and collective journeys FORWARD require being rid of what is no good for us.
- He alludes to the fact that these “newborn” believers should desire the fresh milk of the Gospel.
 - The older we are in Christ, the more solid our “spiritual diet” should become.
- We are invited to come to Christ who is “The Living Stone”.
 - And though rejected, was raised as Victor over all GOD’s creation.
- We too, can become as living stones and Peter says: “be built up into spiritual houses”.
 - (With multiple months of physical distancing, there should be something spiritual building and remodeling!)
- One of the hidden elements of our Purpose and accepting the of GOD for our lives is that over the course of time, by grace, we are being built up into something (someone), in which GOD can get the glory out of.

- Humanity's creation was to bring to glory to GOD and to act as a stream of praise and worship through our own freewill.
- Peter mentions "spiritual sacrifices"
 - The journey FORWARD requires sacrifice!
 - This is why it is essential to pursue GOD and to talk with GOD daily.
 - Sacrifice can be painful! Unto GOD however, the assurance of His good pleasure and that we will receive blessing and favor helps us to weather the temporal discomfort of our losses.
 - Some losses however should be celebrated!
 - In this season of mass grief and sorrow, we must approach GOD not only not from the place of wants us needs but as of our Divine refuge and place of rest.
- He (Peter), continues in affirming that the rejected "Stone" became head of the corner of the chief Cornerstone. Jesus Christ is not only the foundation of the Christian Faith but creation and its' connection to the Creator.
 - Those who have rejected Jesus, do so through disobeying the Word of GOD.
 - It is useless to know scripture and refuse to apply it.
 - Christian living is futile without Christ.
 - Disobedience to the Word of GOD is to be out of relationship with Christ (John 15:13-16)
- We have "agency" by virtue of our birth.
- We are only able to know our truest self (identity) through the One who made us.
 - Our ability to live into this identity is made possible through the One who saved and redeemed us.
- According to Peter, those against GOD are "destined" to be that way.
 - However, with both obedience and disobedience is a matter of CHOICE.
 - With that mind, through Christ we can change our story and become who He made provisions for us to become.
 - And who we are, who we are becoming is who GOD already knows us to be!
- The journey FORWARD is enlightened in the following the ways:
 - Salvation
 - Liberation
 - Reconciliation
 - LOVE
 - Mercy
 - Compassion
 - Strength