

## ***“THE GREAT CONTRAST”***

### **HOLINESS**

**DON MAURER**

1 Peter 2:4-10. ESV.

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As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men, but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion stone, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

#### **1. The Preciousness of Christ.**

- a. Matthew 17:5. While He was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”
- b. John 5:20. “For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.”

#### **2. Christ is precious to us.**

- a. 1 Peter 1:7b-8. . . Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.

#### **3. A stumbling stone for unbelievers.**

- a. John 1:10-11. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

#### **4. Double Predestination or Reprobation.**

- a. WCF 3:3-4. By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestined unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestined and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number so certain and definite that it cannot be either decreased or diminished.

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- b. Proverbs 16:4. The LORD has made all for Himself, yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.
- c. Romans 9:22. What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?
- d. Revelation 22:11. “He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”
- e. Ezekiel 33:11. Say to them, “As I live, says the LORD God, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from His way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?”” (Also cf. 1 Timothy 2:4 and 2 Peter 3:9.)
- f. Matthew 20:28. “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
- g. Revelation 7:9-10. After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

### **5. Who We Are In Christ.**

- a. A chosen race (or generation.)
- b. A royal priesthood.
- c. A holy nation
- d. A people for God’s own possession, who are now His people, receiving mercy.