

## Week Four

### **Chosen Exiles: Hope for a Scattered People**

*Studies in 1 Peter for the White Station Church of Christ*

*These questions are designed to help you dig deeper into **1 Peter 1:22 – 2:10***

#### **Video 1 – The Call to Holiness**

1. What does the word “holy” mean? Be careful. It doesn’t mean “without sin” or “perfect”!
2. Are you holy? Explain your answer.
3. How is the lifestyle Peter is exhorting his readers to embrace a *missional strategy* for the church? Would the same strategy work in our context?
4. The lifestyle Peter is endorsing is the same one Jesus prayed for him and the other apostles to embrace in their mission. Read John 17:14-18.
5. The first section of text for this week (1:22 – 2:3) builds on the metaphor of a *family bond* for these converts from paganism. Why would Peter choose it?

#### **Video 2 – Living in a New World**

1. What is the strangest and most difficult cultural adjustment you ever had to make? (New location for work, college, military, etc?)
2. Multiply the adjustment you recall from Question #1 and multiply it several times – trying to imagine how someone involved in a pagan lifestyle in the first century had to reorder his or her life to a Christian lifestyle of holiness. What do you think the single most difficult element would be?
3. Peter uses the metaphor of being built into a spiritual house or temple. Why would this be important for his readers to understand?
4. Explain what/who Peter was referring to as “the stone that the builders rejected.” How had that stone made them “stumble” and “fall”?
5. What sort of “spiritual sacrifices” do you think Peter had in mind at 2:5?

#### **Video 3 – Pushed to the Side and Marginalized**

1. Many of the earliest Christians paid a high “social cost” for their faith. How would that have been true of a Jewish person? A Gentile?
2. After the fourth century, being Christian had far less social cost because of the approval of Christianity by the Roman government. Do you think that was a good or bad development?
3. What degree of social cost is there to being Christian in today’s culture?
4. Why do you think the video called v.9 “the highest compliment” paid Christians in the New Testament? Would you agree? Or do you think of another description of the church that seems even more extravagant?
5. Much of the lingering marginalization of people in Christian settings today is racial, economic, and political. How do you see that in the environment you know best? How should God’s people respond to it?