

Our devotional today is from the May 14, 2023  
Bible Study Lesson entitled “Lively Stones—  
Spiritual Sacrifices”

If you would like a copy of this Bible Study lesson  
go to [[“Bible Study” at primitivebaptists.org](http://primitivebaptists.org).  
REPEAT]

Lesson Scripture 1 Peter 2:1-10. The lesson is the  
building of the church as the temple of God

I. **The Church: Its Foundation. Mt. 16:15-18.**

- A. When Jesus asked His disciples, *But whom say ye that I am*, Peter answered: Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- B. To that Jesus replied: *Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*
- C. Then Jesus added: *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
- D. Jesus didn't imply that Peter was the foundation of the Church.
- E. Rather, the church is built on the foundation which Peter confessed: Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God, referred to elsewhere as *the foundation of the apostles & the prophets.*
- F. *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 3:11).*

## II. The Church: Its Corner Stone, Eph 2:19-22.

A. The church is the household of God, **19**.  
*Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.*

B. God builds His church on the foundation mentioned above and joins the walls together with the divine cornerstone, **20**.  
*(You) are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.*

C. God chooses those of His household to fit together like the perfectly hewn stones of Solomon's temple, **v. 21**.  
*In whom (Christ) all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:*

D. The church, like the temple of old, is the place God chooses to meet with His people as nowhere else on Earth **v. 22**.  
*In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

## III. The Church: Its Building—1 Cor. 3:9-11.

A. **v. 9a**-God uses His people as laborers. *For we are labourers together with God.*

B. **v. 9b**-As laborers, God's people are under His supervision and care: *ye are God's husbandry.*

C. **v. 9c**—God’s people ARE the building for which they labor: *ye are God's building*.

D. God’s laborers must build the church on ONE foundation, **v. 10b, 11**.

*...let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

#### **IV. The Church: Lively Stones and Spiritual Sacrifices: 1 Pet. 2:4, 5.**

(Christ is) *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.*

A. Christ is the *living* (life giving) stone. **v. 4**.

B. God’s people are the *lively* (spiritually animated stones) that comprise the spiritual house—God’s church on the earth **5a**.

C. The life we, as lively stones receive from Jesus, Who is the living stone, empowers us to be a holy priesthood, offering up acceptable sacrifices to God, **v. 5b**.

(God’s people are) *built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

D. In O.T., Priest’s killed the sacrifices.

E. In N.T. the sacrifices are living, Rom. 12:1

F. Brethren, by the mercies of God: present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. MEANING:

1. Sacrifices to God, Heb 13:15—

*By Him, Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. And...*

2. Sacrifices to God's people, Heb. 13:16. *But to do good and to communicate (commune) forget not: for with such sacrifices, God is well pleased.*

## V. **The Church: Its Kings and Priests**

A. God's people serve Him in His church, as did the priests in the former temple.

*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. 1 Pet. 2:9.*

B. But, unlike the Levitical priesthood, the royal priesthood continues into eternity. *Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple, Rev. 7:14.*

C. But a royal priesthood comprehends not only serving Christ, but ruling with Christ! Rev1:5: (Christ) *loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Rev. 1:5*