

# Now You Are God's People

## Introduction

## Sermon Notes

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  - Ephesians 2:10
  - 1 Peter 2:10

## Lesson

1. Who Do You Place Your Faith In?
  - 1 Peter 2:4
2. Are You Growing In Your Faith?
  - 1 Peter 2:5-6
3. Are You Weakening In Your Faith?
  - 1 Peter 2:7-8
4. Remember Who You Are!
  - 1 Peter 2:9-10
5. Never Forget Who You Are!
  - 1 Peter 2:11-12

## Conclusion

- Where Do You Belong?

# Now You Are God's People

## Introduction

- Recently I read Tarzan of the Apes, the novel by Edgar Rice Burroughs
- It was quite different than what I was expecting
- I grew up watching the Disney Tarzan movie, but that is definitely not what you read in the original novel
- Many of you know the gist of the story though, Tarzans parents die and an ape named Kayla raises him as if he were he was her own
- All Tarzan has ever known was the life of being an ape, and yet he knows that this isn't where he belongs
- While these apes he considered his family, he longs for something greater
- While he has made his home among the apes he knows that he is still a stranger there
- He finds a book in the home that his father had built in the jungle, and do you know what he finds in that book?
- Pictures of men that look just like he does
- Within the pages of a book he learns about who men are and what it means to be a man and he longs for the day to be among those like he is
- He longs for the people that he reads about on the pages of an old book
- And finally, one day an unsuspecting group of people come ashore on the coast of Africa
- Tarzan sees that these people, though he has never met them, he knows from the book that he has read that they are the people for whom he has longed for
- Though he has never had a people before, he can now be united with people he belongs to
  
- As we walk along this earth, do we have this same longing to be added to a people that we truly belong with?
- Though we may have friends and family, we will realize that we are but strangers here and that there is a greater people that we are looking for to call our own and to be united with?
- God, himself, has set eternity in mans heart
- We were created by God and we were created to love him and serve him

- **Ephesians 2:10 - [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)**

- Though for so long in our lives we may serve ourselves
- Though we may seek after the things of this world and the lust of our flesh
- When we open up a book, a book like no other, a book that shows us who we should be, a book of life
- When we open up Gods word, we see the very reason that we live!
- We look into God's word and it answers every question of life
- We see the Bible describing who our true people are
- This is who I am meant to be!

- **1 Peter 2:10 - Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;**

- If I were to go through this life without God I am like a savage in the jungle
- I know that there is something greater out there but I just haven't found it yet
- That is until I hear the word of truth taught
- When we have the words of life opened and taught to us it is clear to us that this is who I belong to
- That I belong to God and I need to align myself to be a member of God's people
- How is it that it can be said, Now you are God's people?
- How is it that you can look out amongst this world and see the ones to whom you belong?
- Though once we were all alone and had no people, we can now find rest and comfort in the arms of the one that made us and the fellow citizens of Heaven that are striving after the same goals as we are

# Now You Are God's People

## Lesson

- Peter so wonderfully shows us not only how by why we are to become Gods people in 1 Peter
  - As you read through 1 Peter 1 the idea of imperishable permeates the text
  - We have been born again to a living hope, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading through Jesus Christ
  - And how was the hope made available?
  - It was not bought with the perishable things such as silver and gold but rather the precious eternal blood of Jesus
  - And not only does the blood of Jesus abide forever, so too does the word of God
  - The word, the good news that has been preached to each of us is imperishable and will remain forever
  
  - The blood of Jesus endures forever
  - The Words of Jesus endure forever
  - The Inheritance for the sanctified endured forever
  
  - For those that Peter writes to are the elect exiles of the Dispersion
  - These are men and women that are literally exiles from their homeland, but more importantly, they are people that have made the realization that they are all exiles and strangers upon this Earth
  - Though this earth may be where they dwell it is not where they belong
  - They are looking to the imperishable where hope can be found
  - These men and women have have been born again to this living Hope
- **1 Peter 1:5 - [5] who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (ESV)**
- Just as the people did, do you long to have your hope realized?
  - Do you long for the outcome of your faith?
  - Salvation in the last time!
  - God's power will guard us
  - He is there and will keep you with the imperishable blood of Jesus, the imperishable words of Christ and you can lay hold of the imperishable inheritance, but what must we do?
  - We must keep the faith
  
  - Read with me the text of discussion this morning from 1 Peter 2:4-12
  - Read with me as we examine how we are to reach the point where we too can say, Now We Are God's People!
- **1 Peter 2:4-12 - [4] As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, [5] you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. [6] For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." [7] 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," [8] and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. [9] 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. [10] 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. [11] Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. [12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (ESV)**

## Now You Are God's People

- No greater or more encouraging words may never have been spoken than what we read in verses 9-10
- You look out among the world and you realize that you have been called to something far greater than anything that this world has to offer
- That you do not belong here, but when you open the word of God you can see where it is that you belong
- You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people for God's own possession
- Once you had no people, you were not a people, but Now You Are God's People
- How do we get there?
- Where does it all start?
- What do you place your faith in?
- Or a better question...

1. Who do you place your faith in?

- **1 Peter 2:4 - [4] As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,**

- Who must we come to?
- Jesus and Jesus alone!
- Thinking back to what the entirety of 1 Peter chapter 1 was about, Jesus is the only means that this perishable can put on the imperishable
- Though this world will look at Jesus and scoff, we look to him as the only source of imperishable hope!
- From before the very foundations of the earth were laid, God had chosen Jesus as the one and only one source of redemption for mankind
- He was precious in his sight
- Jesus was his only begotten son, and yet he still sent him to be rejected by men and to die so that his precious blood, his eternal, imperishable blood could be shed for each and everyone of our sins
- Where does it all start?
- It starts with Jesus
- When we open up the book of life we see in Jesus who each of us are to be
- We see in Jesus the very purpose and goal of our lives
- So if we see Jesus as the man that we should all be, if you have put your faith in him, are you becoming more and more like him each day?

2. Are you growing in your faith?

- **[5] you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. [6] For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."**

- Just as Jesus himself was a living stone, are we becoming those same stones?
- Are you growing, are you maturing?
- Has your life become a spiritual house where God can abide in you?
- God has always abided in his people, whether is be in the tabernacle or in the temple itself but now that Jesus has come, where is the temple now?
- You yourselves are the spiritual house of the Lord
- And if you are the temple of the lord, what must occur at the temple?
- Priest will come and offer sacrifices to the Lord

## Now You Are God's People

- If you are the temple, do you realize that you are the priest of the temple as well?
  - Each day, what are you giving to the Lord?
  - Throughout the Old Testament it can clearly be seen that God has never accepted anything less than the absolute best from his people
  - If we are to now be God's people, if we are the very temple of the Lord serving as his royal priest, are you sacrificing your very best to the Lord?
  - Through the blood of Jesus we can now all come before the throne of the almighty God, but what are you laying down before his feet?
  - We must offer our very lives and wills if he is to find our sacrifice acceptable
  
  - But take comfort my brothers
  - For to the one that gives all the the lord, the one that becomes more and more like Jesus every day, the one that has faith in Him and Him alone and grows in their faith and devotion to God, look at the joy set before us?
  - We will not be put to shame!
  - We will stand in honor before God, but what happens if we are not found to be growing in our faith?
  - As opposed to growing in your faith...
3. Are you weakening in your faith?
- **[7] 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," [8] and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.**
  
  - I think the reason that we either choose to obey the word or disobey the word may boil down to one question?
  - And that question is the whole premise of our lesson
  - And that question is...
  - Where do you belong?
  - Do you feel at home in this world?
  - When you look out in the world do you see a place where you belong?
  - Does this world and the things of it fulfill your every desire and longing?
  - Do you find meaning in the purpose in the world around you?
  - If you do then no wonder you do not obey the word of God, for you have no place for it in your life
  - If this world that is temporal and perishing is all you need then no wonder you reject Jesus and your vital need for him
  - But, if you look around this world and you see just how fleeting this life is
  - If you look out and see that though you may live here this can't be your true home
  - And If you have opened the book that shows you who you are and where you belong and to whom you belong to, then...
4. Remember Who You Are!
- **[9] 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. [10] 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.**
  
  - I want to reread these verses again and I want you to think about how many wonderful blessings are contained in just these two verses
  - We are chosen

## Now You Are God's People

- We are part of the group that before time began God set forth his scheme of redemption to give life to mankind and we can be among that treasured group
- We each now have the awesome responsibility but also privilege of being a priest of the king!
- We get to serve our God as only a very select group of men once did
- We have been set apart from this world
- We can become like our God as we all grow in our love and service to him
- And our God treasures each and everyone of us!
- He set forth his plan to redeem all mankind long ago because of his great love for us
- He longs to have us in his presence
- He longs for us to choose to serve him
- He longs for us to come into his fold so that we will be part of his own possession
- We are completely and totally his
- No longer living for ourselves, but rather living for the one that has done everything for us
- We are no longer a savage in the jungle with no purpose longing for our place in this world
- In Jesus, in our God, we have found the imperishable and proclaim this to all the world
- Excellencies
- We owe our God all of the honor, glory and praise that we can possibly give for he is truly a great and awesome God
- His blessings, his excellencies are beyond our capability to fully grasp and appreciate
- For no longer are we in the dark and dying world, but we are surrounded by the light of the Lord
- God is truly to wonderful for comprehension and I stand in awe of him!
  
- For he looks down upon this earth and he sees me!
- He cares for me!
- He loves me!
- God sees you!
- He cares for you!
- And he loves you!
- For our own decisions brought death and destruction upon ourselves but our God comes with open arms and mercy flowing forth
- Remember Who You Are!
- Remember how marvelous your God is!
- Remember the mercy you have received!
- Remember, now you are Gods people
- And...

### 5. Never Forget Who You Are!

- **[11] Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. [12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (ESV)**

- If you have come to God then it is because you realized just how meaningless life is without God in it
- You realized that this world was not your home and that you were but a stranger here
- If you have become a part of the people of God, don't ever allow yourself to forget it!
- Never allow Satan to lull you into placing your hope on the perishable but rather remain focused on the imperishable
- The Devil is fighting to win your soul
- It is his desire that God would not have a people but rather all men serve themselves and in turn serve him

## **Now You Are God's People**

- War is being waged
- We must fight the war for our eternal souls
- Remember where your purpose lies
- Remember where your home is
- Remember Who You Are and Never Forget It!
- If you have been called out of darkness and into Gods marvelous light, then let his light shine!
- Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed
- Let all who see you, see one that is completely devoted to God
- And do you know what may happen when you live as a people for Gods own possession?
- Others will come to know and glorify God as well!
- Not only will you be a part of Gods people, but others will come into the fold of God as well
- Others that at one point were not a people, will now be called Gods people

### Conclusion

- I close by simply asking, where do you belong?
- Do you look to this world and find everything that you could ever want?
- Are you satisfied with this life and nothing more?
- Or do you long for something greater?
- Do you look around this world and realize that you don't belong here?
- That you are just a stranger and that you long to find true meaning in this life
- This life's purpose can only be found in being a child of God!
- Can it be said, Now You Are God's People?
- If not, I implore you to come and become a child of God before it is eternally too late!