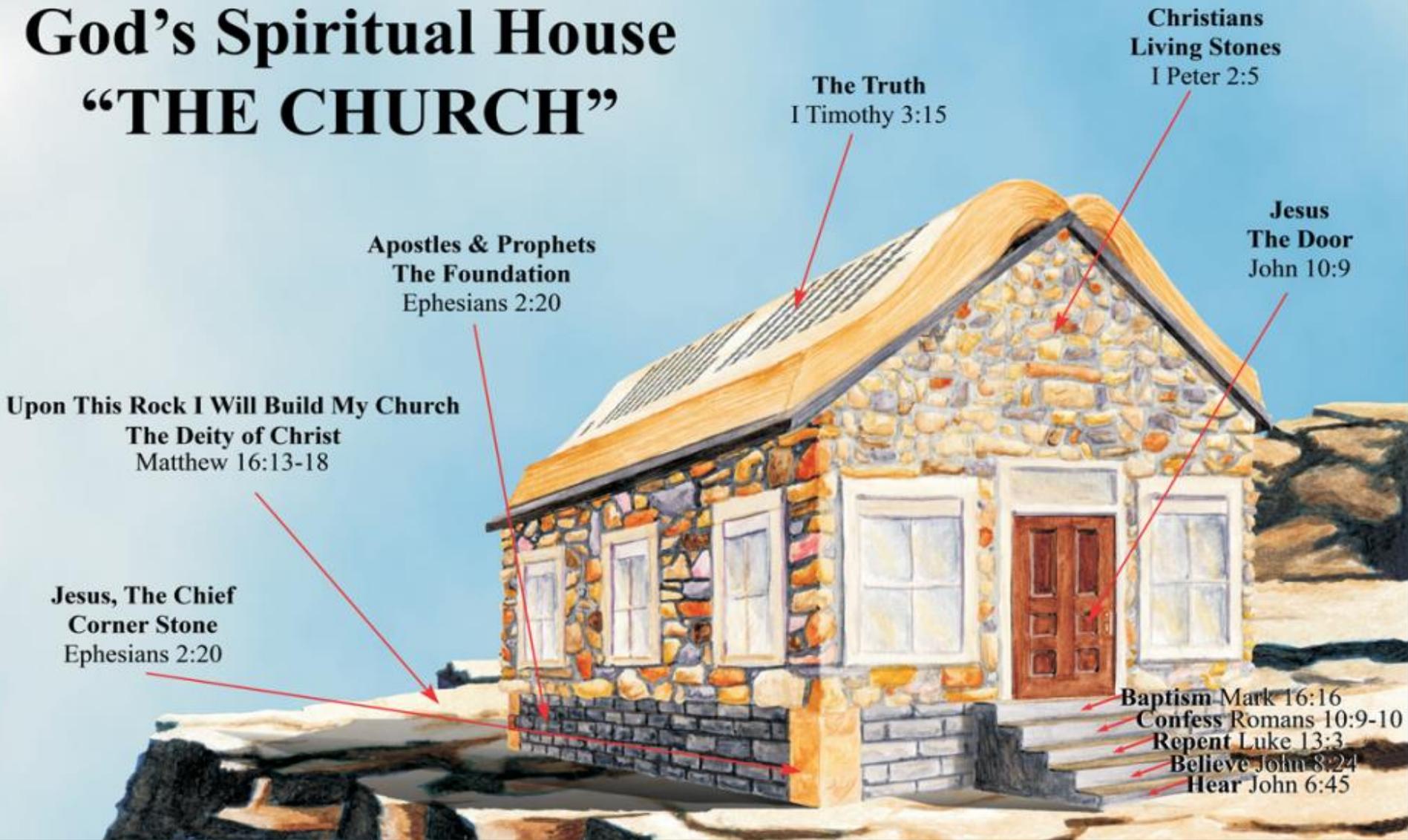


God's Spiritual House "THE CHURCH"



OUR SPIRITUAL HOUSE
I PETER 2:1-8

BACKGROUND TO THE QUESTIONS

- What do you feel when friends from your pre-Christian days pressure you to join them in sinful activities?
- What do you need to hear that would give you strength to remain faithful?

I PETER 2:1-8

- ¹ So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. 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.

DESIRING GOD'S WORD
I PETER
2:1-3

- Love for and delight in God's word has always been a mark of God's people.
 - Job 23:12; I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.
 - Jeremiah 15:16; Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

I PETER 2:1;
SO **PUT
AWAY ALL**
MALICE AND
ALL DECEIT
AND
HYPOCRISY
AND ENVY
AND ALL
SLANDER.

The participle translated
“**put away**” means to take
off; lay aside; put away; lay
down.

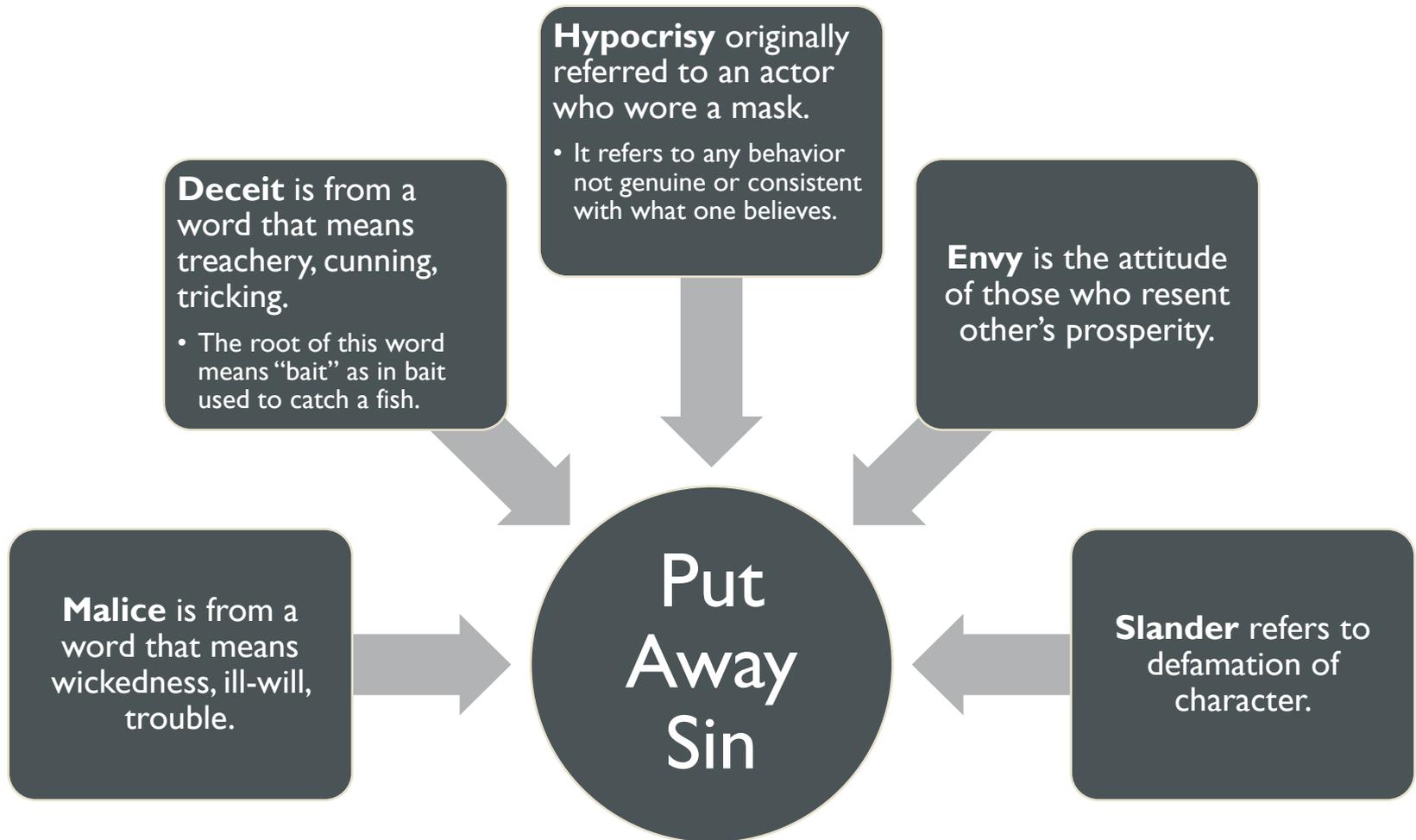
Colossians
3:8; But now
you must **put
them all
away**: anger,
wrath, malice,
slander, and
obscene talk
from your
mouth.

Ephesians
4:22; to **put
off** your old
self, which
belongs to
your former
manner of life
and is corrupt
through
deceitful
desires,

James 1:21;
Therefore
put away all
filthiness and
rampant
wickedness
and receive
with
meekness the
implanted
word, which is
able to save
your souls.

The word “all” is used 3 times to emphasize
complete removal.

I PETER 2:1; SO PUT AWAY ALL **MALICE** AND ALL **DECEIT** AND **HYPOCRISY** AND **ENVY** AND ALL **SLANDER**.



LONG FOR THE PURE SPIRITUAL MILK

- I Peter 2:2; Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—



That sole and desperate hunger for milk is the newborn's first expressed longing designed by God to correspond to his/her greatest need, and it illustrates how strongly believers ought to desire the Word.



I PETER 2:2; LIKE NEWBORN INFANTS, **LONG FOR** THE PURE SPIRITUAL MILK, THAT BY IT YOU MAY GROW UP INTO SALVATION—

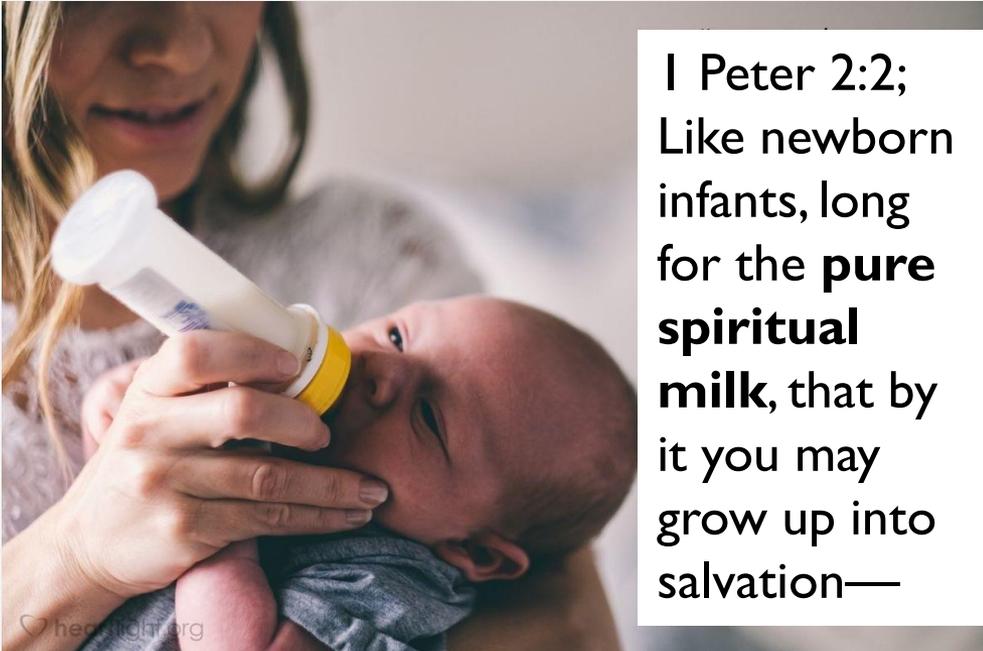
- **Long for** is an imperative verb that commands us to strongly desire or crave God's word.
- It expresses intense, recurring, insatiable desire or passion.

LONG FOR

- Its meaning encompasses such things as:
 - the strong desire a husband or wife has for a spouse.
 - the strong physical craving that accompanies extreme hunger.
 - the intense desire a Christian parent has for a spiritually wayward child to repent and return to obedience.

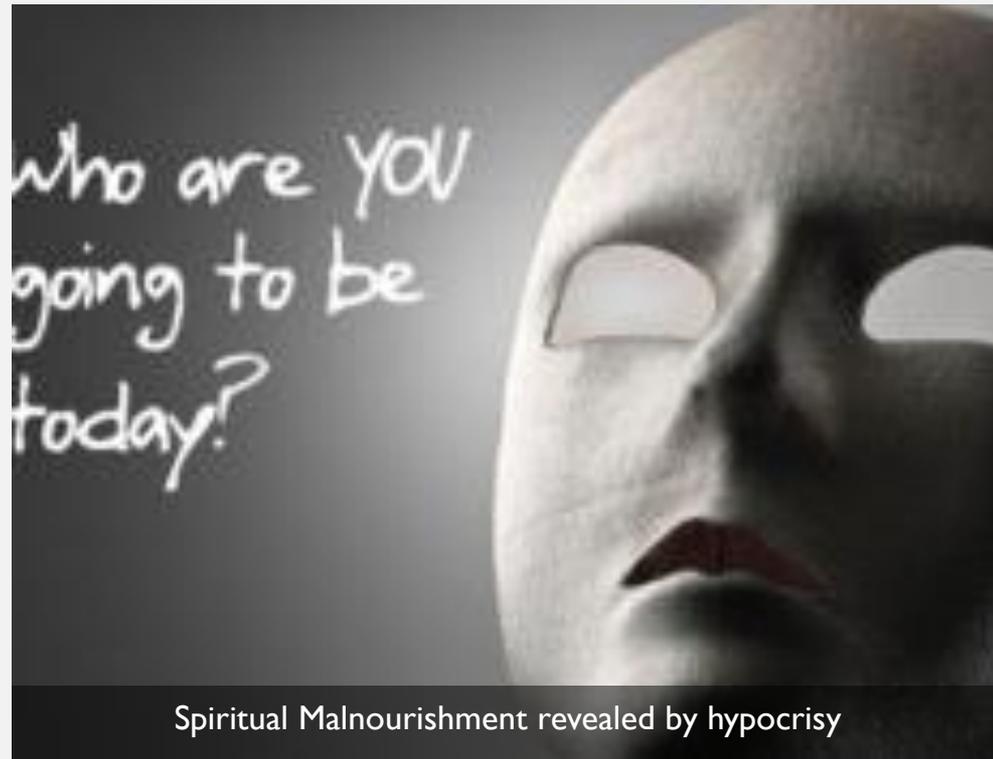


Carl and Ellie from the movie Up



1 Peter 2:2;
Like newborn
infants, long
for the **pure
spiritual
milk**, that by
it you may
grow up into
salvation—

- **Pure** means unadulterated or uncontaminated.
- **Spiritual milk** – as a newborn is sustained by milk, a Christian is sustained by God's word.
 - The strong desire for God's word is the foundation of every other behavior that causes growth.
 - Whether one is a new convert or a mature Christian, craving the word of God is always essential to spiritual nourishment and growth.
- Our world would have us feed on spiritual junk food.
 - It causes malnutrition and dulls the appetite for genuine spiritual food.



PURSUING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- 1 Peter 2:2; Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may **grow up into salvation**—
- It is sad to see pictures of malnourished children.
- A picture of a malnourished Christian may not indicate malnourishment in anyway – but a malnourished Christian is very sad as well.

I PETER 2:2

**HOW IMPORTANT
IS SPIRITUAL
GROWTH IN
CHRISTIAN LIFE?**



Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you **may grow up into salvation—**

I PETER 2:3; ...IF INDEED YOU
HAVE TASTED THAT THE LORD IS
GOOD.



BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TAKES REFUGE IN HIM!

PSALM 34:8

I PETER 2:3; **IF** INDEED YOU HAVE
TASTED THAT THE LORD IS GOOD.

If is a first-class conditional participle introducing the facts or conditions necessary for a proposition to be true.

Best understood as “since.”

Since you have tasted (experienced) the goodness of the Lord, you should long for more goodness from God’s word.

We should regularly “count our many blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.”

UNION WITH
CHRIST,
ACCESS TO GOD

I Peter 2:4-5

I PETER 2:4-5

- “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.”
- Many believers view the Christian life more from the standpoint of spiritual duty rather than spiritual privilege.
- Spiritual duty and spiritual privilege are not mutually exclusive for believers, either in this life or in the life to come.

Jesus	Christian
a living Stone	living stones
rejected by men	rejected by men (implicit in suffering)
in God's perspective, chosen	in God's perspective, chosen (1 Peter 1:1 – elect)
In God's perspective, precious	In God's perspective, precious (1 Peter 1:18-19)

I PETER 2:4-5

- “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.”

I PETER 2:4;
AS YOU
COME TO
HIM, A LIVING
STONE
REJECTED BY
MEN BUT IN
THE SIGHT
OF GOD
CHOSEN AND
PRECIOUS,

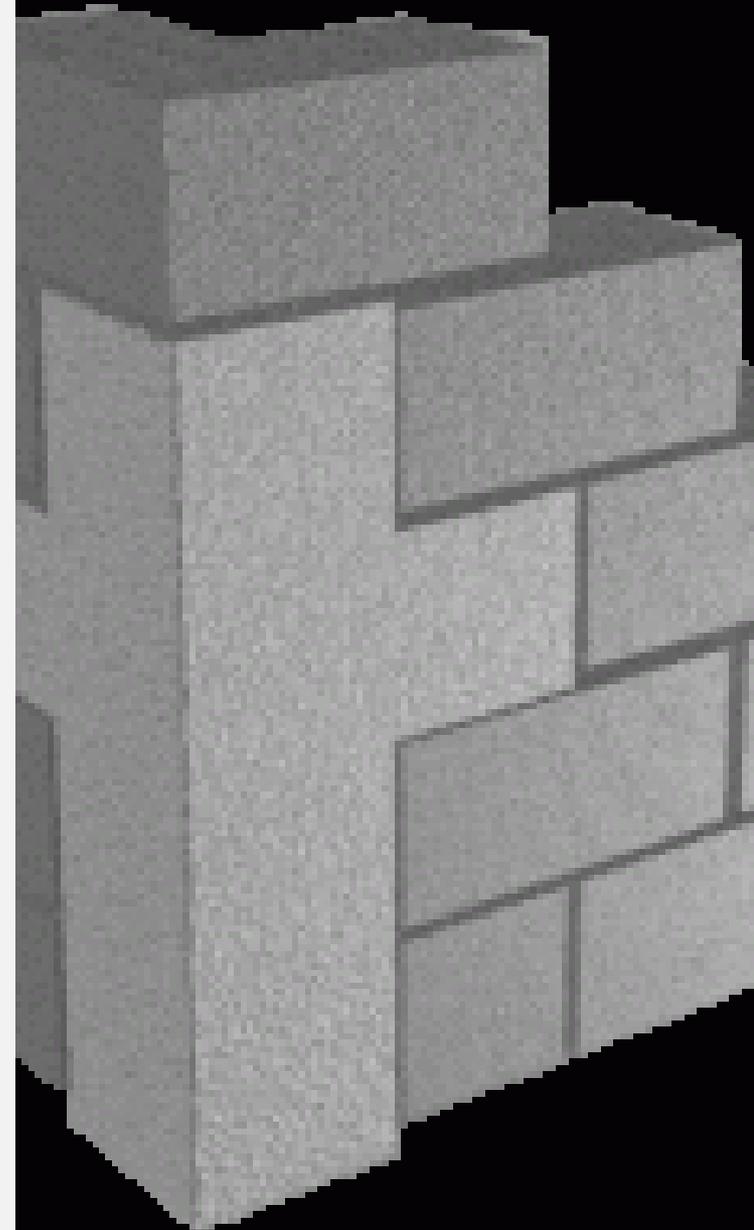
- It is by **coming** to Jesus that one enters into the realm of spiritual privileges.
- Matthew 11:28–29; **Come** to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
- The verb **come** denotes a drawing near to Christ in intimate, abiding, personal fellowship.
- Hebrews 10:22;

I PETER 2:4; AS YOU COME TO HIM,
A LIVING STONE REJECTED BY
MEN BUT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD
CHOSEN AND PRECIOUS

- Peter's image is of a stone that was perfectly designed, shaped, and hewn out to become the cornerstone of the church, not merely a stone but a **living stone**.
- **Living** is an important concept.
 - I Peter 1:3; Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
 - I Peter 1:23; since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;
 - I Peter 2:4-5; 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.

I PETER 2:4; AS YOU COME TO HIM, A
LIVING STONE **REJECTED BY MEN** BUT
IN THE SIGHT OF GOD **CHOSEN AND
PRECIOUS**

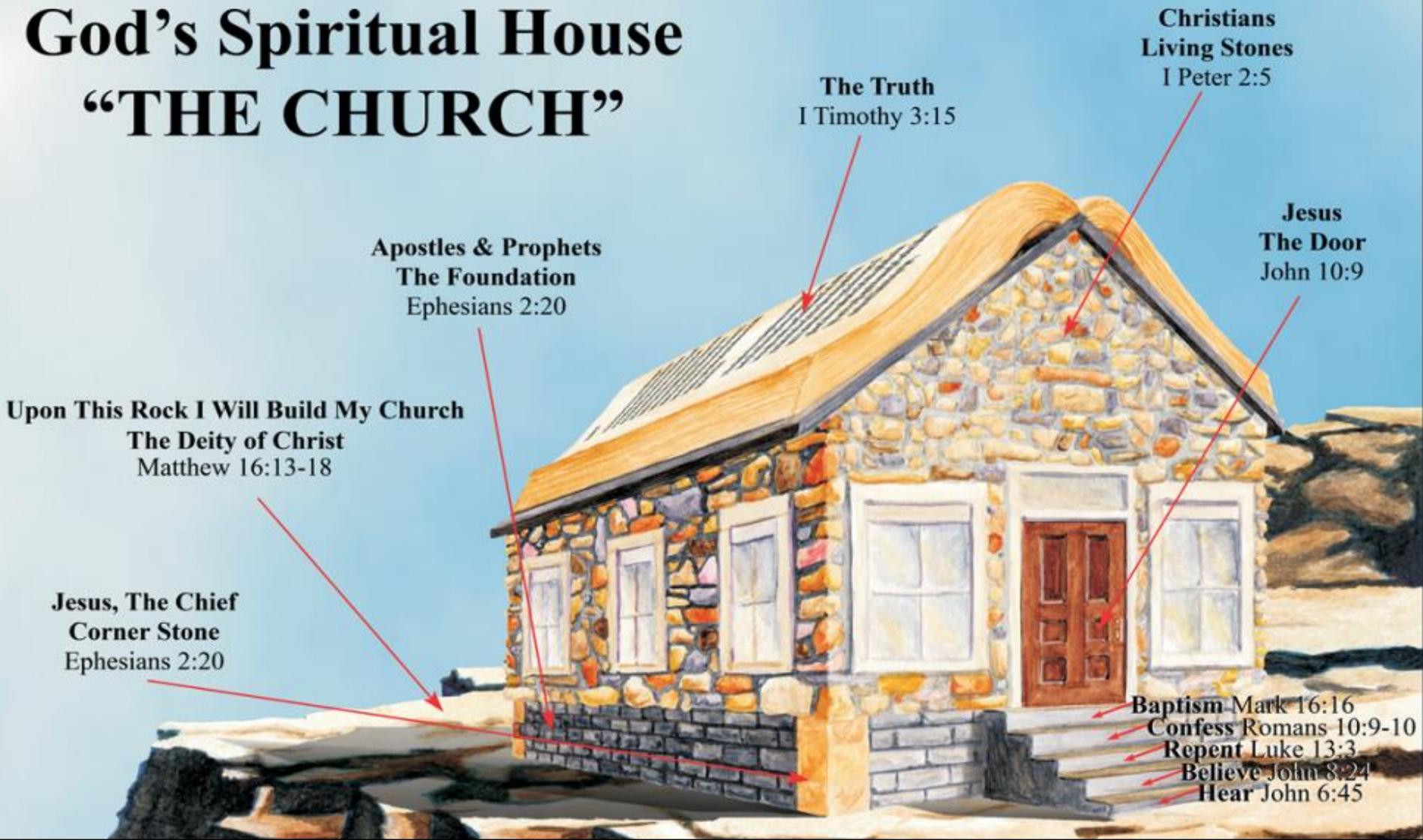
- Even though Christ is the source of all spiritual privileges, He has been **rejected by men**.
- Despite being rejected by men, He is **choice and precious** in the sight of God.
- God considers Jesus “**chosen**” (selected) and “**precious**,” which means “costly, highly prized, rare.”



I PETER 2:5;
YOU
YOURSELVES
LIKE
**LIVING
STONES...**

- When sinners come in faith to Christ, the “living stone,” they too become **living stones**;
- Ephesians 2:19–22; So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him **you also are being built together** into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

God's Spiritual House "THE CHURCH"



I PETER 2:5; YOU YOURSELVES LIKE LIVING STONES ARE BEING BUILT UP AS A SPIRITUAL HOUSE,...

I PETER 2:5;
YOU
YOURSELVES
LIKE LIVING
STONES ARE
BEING **BUILT
UP AS A
SPIRITUAL
HOUSE, . . .**

- Under the old covenant, God's temple, representing His presence, was a material house.
 - 1 Kings 8:10–11; And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.
- Under the new covenant, believers are being built up as a spiritual house that supersedes any material building.
 - 2 Corinthians 6:16

A HOLY
PRIESTHOOD
I PETER 2:5 ...
TO BE A **HOLY**
PRIESTHOOD
...

- Believers also function as a **holy priesthood**.
- This is not like the OT Levitical priesthood when only the Levites could be priests.
- This priesthood is made up of all Christians.
- I Peter 2:9; 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.

1 PETER 2:5
... TO OFFER
**SPIRITUAL
SACRIFICES
ACCEPTABLE
TO GOD
THROUGH
JESUS
CHRIST**

- When Christ inaugurated the new covenant, animal sacrifices were no longer necessary (Heb. 8:13; 9:11–15; 10:1–18).
- Now the only sacrifices remaining for the priesthood of believers to offer up, according to Peter, are **spiritual sacrifices**.
- Old Testament priests were to only offer sacrifices that were acceptable to God.
- Christians have the serious responsibility of offering spiritual sacrifices that are **acceptable to God through Jesus Christ**.

SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES

- Christians are to offer their **bodies** as spiritual sacrifices (Rom. 12:1-2).
- Christians are to offer up a sacrifice of **praise** (Heb. 13:15).
- Doing **good** and **sharing** are pleasing sacrifices to God (Heb. 13:16).
- **New converts** are a sacrifice to God (Rom. 15:15-16).
- **Sacrificial love**, in imitation of Christ, is a sacrifice (Eph. 5:1-2).
- **Prayers** are a sacrifice to God (Rev. 8:3-4).

RESULTS FROM ENCOUNTERING THE STONE

I Peter 2:6-8

I PETER 2:6;
FOR IT
STANDS IN
SCRIPTURE
...

- I Peter 2:6; 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.”
- Isaiah 28:16; Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’”

I PETER 2:6;
... I AM LAYING IN
ZION A STONE, A
CORNERSTONE
CHOSEN AND
PRECIOUS

- In building Solomon's temple, the stones were chosen and prepared at the quarry.
 - I Kings 6:7; When the house was built, it was with stone prepared at the quarry, so that neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the house while it was being built.
- That description is analogous to God's choosing Christ as the foundation on which to build His spiritual temple.
 - Greek word translated **precious** means "unequaled in value," "costly," or "irreplaceable."
 - The word translated **cornerstone** denotes a chief cornerstone and describes the stone that sets all the proper angles for the building.

I PETER 2:6; ...
**WILL NOT
BE PUT TO
SHAME.**

- Believers in Jesus **will not be put to shame.**
 - The word rendered **put to shame** denotes being put to shame, humiliated, disgraced.
- Because Jesus Christ is the perfect, exact, precise One on whom God has built His church, all the lines coming from Him in every direction complete the perfect temple of God.
 - No one is ever out of alignment. It all fits exactly together (cf. Eph. 4:16).



THE STONE: BUILT UPON OR STUMBLE OVER

BELIEVERS

- I Peter 2:7; So the honor is for you who believe...
- Believers are built by God upon the cornerstone into his spiritual house

DISOBEDIENT

- I Peter 2:7b; “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”
- I Peter 2:8; and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

WHAT HAS PETER TOLD US?

- Put away all sin
- Long for the word of God to grow up into salvation
- Come to Jesus, the living stone
- Become like him – living stones
- You are a part of something bigger than yourself – you are being built up as the house of God
- We are a holy priesthood and our purpose in life is to offer spiritual sacrifices
- Believers will never be put to shame
- Unbelievers will stumble over Jesus