

Salvation Renovation Motivation

1 Peter 2:4-10

(preached Pine Grove 9/8/19 Sun PM)

Introduction

Though hurricanes are tragic in terms of loss of life and property, they are also very profitable for construction industry.

Ever since hurricane Michael made landfall last October in the panhandle of Florida, construction companies have been working around the clock.

In Bay County, Florida, where the eye of Hurricane Michale passed, there is 160 million dollars of roofing work alone that has already been permitted.

The only problem is that there aren't enough roofers to get it all done.

Wes Ennis, the owner of Gulf Coast Roofing in Panama City said that he went from 20 workers to 100 workers over a matter of weeks.

But roofing is just part of the problem after a hurricane.

There are needs in the electrical, plumbing and framing business..

Needless to say, construction companies all over Florida have also added 1000s of laborers to their payrolls since last October.

One bathroom contractor was interviewed and said that homeowners are so desperate for contractors that she recently signed a contract for work that she won't be able to get to until 2021.

But this is the problem when the scope of the work to be done outnumbers the people who are skilled enough to perform it.

For the past few weeks, we have been looking at what I call salvation renovations in 1 Peter.

And what I mean by that is this.

The salvation that believers enjoy is secure but it also motivates us to renovate our lives..

Peter used the first 12 verses to describe our salvation in Christ, and then in verse 13, he wrote, "Therefore.."

Clearly, our salvation in Christ is motivation to obey Christ.

And so Peter began listing some duties that believers should perform in response to God graciously saving us..

And I tend to look at these duties in the picture of home renovations.

Salvation has made made us a new creature in Christ.

We are new people, but we are not fully finished.

So we are constantly renovating the old and the old woman.

We are working on new flooring and new paint and new pictures and new furniture.

Now all those duties and renovations require help.

We are like the homeowner who returns to see his home in rough shape because of the hurricane.

He needs to help to rebuild, to restore and to renovate.

Now, first off we recognize the gift of the Spirit in terms of how our lives are being renovated after salvation.

The Spirit is always at work in our lives convicting us of things that need to go now that we are saved.

The Spirit is also at work through the Word that we are exposed to that helps us know what to renovate.

He lays out the end product that we strive toward..

But there is also other help to us as we seek to rid our lives of the old nature and put on the new nature..

And one of those motivations to renovate is the inward desire to do it..

A man who sets out to rebuild a home after a disaster sets his mind on the finished product.

He see himself sitting on the deck or the porch enjoying the new home.

A wife sees herself in the new bedroom feet up reading a book.

Well, what motivation do we have as believers to renovate our lives?

What motivation do we have to pursue sanctification with all our might?

What motivation do we have to fight sin and long for holiness?

Well, Peter is going to give us 3 motivations in 1 Peter 2:4-10 to get busy renovating our lives after salvation.

These aren't duties to keep or renovations to perform but they are encouragement to remember when the things that need to be done are overwhelming..

Let's begin in verse 4 and 5 of 1 Peter 2 with what we will call..

I. Renovations are Powered by God (4-5)

After laying out a number of commands to believers in the end of chapter 1 and the first 3 verses of chapter 2, Peter takes a break to encourage us.

If you look back to chapter 1, believers are commanded to change the way we think by fixing our hope on Christ.

We were also commanded to be holy like the God who has saved us.

We were also commanded to live reverently in fear of God.

We were commanded to love fervently.

And then last week we were commanded to long for the Word of God.

Needless to say, this is a pretty intense list of commands to keep.

Change the way I think.

Change the way I live.

Change the way I love.

Change the things I desire.

On the way to Whitmire, there is a really long stretch on road that you can see almost 2.5 miles from one end to the other..

One day, my daddy and I had taken my grandaddy fishing and we came to the top of that hill where you could see 2.5 in the distance..

And my grandaddy said, “If someone put me out of the car and I had to walk this stretch of road, I would have to sit down and rest if I just looked at how far I had to go.”

That is sometimes our attitude to spiritual growth.

Sometimes, there seems to be so much to do that we just can’t get started..

Well, Peter lays out the road before us, but he then provides the motivation to get going..

And the first motivation is found in verses 4 and 5..

Let’s read it..

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is [i]choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, [j]are being built up as a spiritual house

for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Peter loves to use illustrations in his writing..

He has described as our salvation as something more precious than gold.

He has described the Bible as pure milk.

And now he describes Jesus as a living stone.

Now, we don't think of stones as being alive, but Christ as a stone is very much alive.

He is the cornerstone of Christianity but he is not dead like stones are.

He is alive and active in the life of his people, and Peter even describes us a living stones in verse 5..

In other words, believers are not dead but alive in Christ.

So Peter also calls us living stones.

And remember, Peter was named the rock by Jesus.

But Jesus used the word Petra to describe Peter...

Petra is a more like a irregular shaped rock, similar to what you find in nature..

The word for stone here is lithon, and it was used to describe regularly shaped stones that were suitable and used for building.

In other words, you couldn't construct a building out of petra..

You could make a rock wall by fitting them together.

But if you wanted a sturdy and durable building, you used lithon.

Peter was rock that became a stone once the Spirit shaped him..

And we are rough stones until we were saved and the Spirit began to shape us..

Now remember, Jesus is the model stone that we are being shaped into.

But he is also the cornerstone.

The cornerstone in a building would be the first stone set in the construction of a building.

And that stone would set the standard for the rest of the building.

Christ is our cornerstone.

He is our standard.

Our faith is based on who He is.

And when we are saved, we move from being rough stones to being smooth building stones..

You can take a rock and lay it in a stream and the force of the water over time will make the stone smooth.

This is the picture of what is going on in our lives as believers..

The Word is washing over us and cleaning us and smoothing out the rough edges..

And we become usable to God.

And what does God use us for?

To build his church.

Look at verse 5 again..

you also, as living stones, [j]are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The point here is clear..

Peter is encouraging his readers to obey the commands that he has just listed by reminding them that God is shaping them into living stones for use in building his church...

And this is what the church is..

WE are bunch of loose irregular shaped rocks that God has shaped into usable stones to build his church..

And what do we do in the church?

Peter tells us..

We serve as priests offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Christ..

What does that mean?

That simply means that we give our lives in service to the Lord.

We labor for the church.

We give to the church.

We offer worship to God in the church.

As a saved person, you are not your own.

You are not a loose rock in the world.

You are a rock that is being shaped to fit into the Lord's church to do His will and not your own.

Look, when you refuse to obey the Lord's commands, you keep the rough edges of your past life and instead of fitting in a building stone of the church, you stand out like a sore thumb.

People complain about not fitting in at church.

It's possible that the church is bunch of rough stones that don't want a smooth stone.

But it is also possible that you are the rough stone.

One motivation for your sanctification is find where you fit in the Lord's church and get busy working for Him.

And know that the Lord will shape you through the pure milk of his word so that you are a building stone and not a stone that doesn't fit.

A second motivation to focus on your sanctification renovation is found in verses 6-8..

Not only is God the power being your renovations, those renovations are also promised to those who believe in Him..

II. Renovations are Promised By God (6-8)

Look at verses 6-8..

6 For this is contained in [k]Scripture:

“Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone,

And he who believes in [l]Him will not be [m]disappointed.”

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,

“The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone,”

8 and,

“A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

As the living stone, Jesus serves 2 purposes.

Purpose 1 is the foundational rock that he provides for all who believe in Him.

Purpose 2 is the stumbling block that he offers to all who reject Him.

Everyone in human history rises on falls on the rock of Christ.

EVERYONE.

You either see Him as God and build your faith on Him.

Or you reject Him, remain in your unbelief and stumble over the rock of Christ into hell.

This is the dividing line in all of human history.

Believe in Christ and be blessed.

Reject Christ and be condemned.

Now, please note that belief in Christ is rewarded.

Yes, there is forgiveness of sin.

Yes, there is a future in heaven.

But there are also benefits to belief in this life.

Notice the verse that Peter references in verse 6..

He quotes from the book of Isaiah..

And he who believes in [l]Him will not be [m]disappointed.” 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe;

The point that Peter is trying to make is that those who come to Christ, those who believe in Christ will benefit from that belief.

And the benefit that is in view is the benefit of being built up into a spiritual house.

In other words, those who believe in Christ will be sanctified.

God will complete the renovations He has started in your life.

That is a benefit of belief.

God will do His good work in you in terms of renovating your life.

Let me give you an example.

As an unbeliever, I had many sinful habits.

No need to be specific here, but I had sinful habits.

And even as an unbeliever, I saw the ugliness of them.

I would even try to stop, but my victories would be short lived.

Eventually, I would return to the sin.

But when God saved me, he simply removed the some of those sinful desires..

He simply took away the desire to do some of those things.

Look, that is a simple yet incredible benefit of salvation.

In some rooms of my life, God simply went in and tore out the carpet, painted the walls, and renovated and I am forever grateful.

There are other rooms where the work is not so immediate, but God is still at work in them.

This is the beauty of Christ and the gospel.

Salvation removes sin but it also initiates renovations in our lives.

Some go fast and others take time, but the promise is those who believe will never be disappointed.

God will complete his work in us.

If you need motivation to press on toward becoming the new man or the new woman that you are called to be, remember...

Renovations are promised by God..

And last but not least, motivation to renovate comes from knowing that our new lives have but one purpose...

III. Renovations are Purposed for God (9-10)

Look at verse 9...

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Why do some people renovate their home?

Well, for some it is matter of comfort and convenience.

They want to enjoy their homes more, so they renovate the kitchen to make cooking easier.

They renovate the living room to make the TV easier to see.

They renovate the bathroom to enjoy a larger shower.

But then there are people who renovate to display their wealth.

They want a nicer bathroom so that visitors can marvel at the expense.

They want an additional room on the house so that people riding by will think their house is bigger.

Some people renovate to simply show it off to others.

Though that may be a sinful reason to renovate your home, it is a great reason to renovate your life.

In fact, Peter tells us that our sanctification serves one purpose..

Look at the end of verse 9..

so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light

In the OT, Israel was called to be a distinct nation.

All the other nations in the OT had multiple gods, but Israel had one God.

All the other nations in the world ate whatever they pleased, but Israel followed a strict diet set by their God.

All the other nations engaged in all sorts of sinful behavior, but Israel has a standard of morality that came from their God.

Israel was called to draw people to their God by their relationship to their God.

But in the NT, we are to go to the nations proclaiming the gospel.

We are to go into all the world making disciples.

Israel had but a few missionaries, but the church has many.

The church is therefore is therefore distinct from Israel in that way.

But we are also similar to them in some ways as well..

In fact, Peter lists some similarities to the church and Israel in the opening of verse 9..

9 But you are a chosen race

Abraham was nothing special when God called him to be the father of the nation of Israel.

He was called out of Ur through no effort of his own.

God simply chose him and called him and then set him as the father of the Israel.

The same is true in the church.

None of us deserved our calling.

None of us did anything to merit being called to salvation.

We were simply chosen by God before the foundation of the world.

But not only are we chosen church, we are also *a royal priesthood.*

Israel was led by group of priests that provided the people with access to God..

Israel would offer sacrifices to God through the priest..

He was the middle man in the OT.

Today in the church age, we are all priests.

The curtain of the temple was torn by the death of Christ.

WE have all have access to God through our great High priest who is Christ.

You don't have to go through a priest today.

You are priest, and in fact, you link the unbeliever to God through living out and speaking the gospel to them.

Third, we are a holy nation.

Simply put, we live differently.

As I said earlier, this doesn't mean we only eat certain food in this age, but it does mean that we only engage in certain activities.

We live by a standard.

WE live by the law of Christ found in the NT.

We obey the words of Christ.

We obey the truth of Scripture.

And then Peter add that we are a people *for God's own possession*.

The reality for the church is that we have been purchased by God at the price of His own Son.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says that we are not our own but we have been bought with a price.

Do you know what separates you from the unbeliever?

He lives for himself, but you live for God.

He does what pleases him, but you do what pleases the Lord.

But ultimately, he thinks and acts like he owns himself, but you know that you are owned by God.

In the OT, Israel belonged to God even though they didn't live like it at times..

In the NT, we belong to the Lord.

He possesses us in every way...

And that should be evident by how our lives look.

And the end result is that we reflect the God that has saved us to the world..

This is Peter's point here.

You are being renovated for a purpose.

So get busy with your renovations so that your lives proclaim the excellencies of the God who has saved you and is changing you.

Renovation Motivation comes when we see that our sanctification is powered by God, promised by God, and purposed for God.

Conclusion

Whitmire is a former textile town.

The cotton mill was the primary employer for decades in the town.

Now the mill was central to life.

The mill even shaped the landscape of the town.

The mill would come in and buy up a large segment of the town and begin to build houses all around the mill to house their employees.

And many of the houses today in Whitmire around the mill all look identical.

Same floor plan, same placement of the driveway, same front porch and back step.

It was intentional.

It made their employers grateful for a place to live.

It puts their employers in close proximity to the mill.

It also bred loyalty to the mill.

Now the result was a town without much variety in terms of homes around the mill.

In a sense, God seeks to possess His people in such a way that we begin to look alike as we grow more and more to look like him.

This is why mature churches think alike and act alike and serve alike.

In fact, the renovations in your life and my life should match because we are both seeking to look like the same God who saved us.

The church will always be diverse because God has made no two people exactly alike.

But that being said, as the church matures, we should begin to notice that our houses are looking more and alike.

And that is a good thing.

If you want to be motivated in your sanctification, look at another's believers life and try to your life looking more like theirs.

Let us pray.