

PETER — THE “ROCK”

John 1:35-44

(John 1:35-44), “Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; {36} And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! {37} And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. {38} Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? {39} He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour. {40} One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon **PETER'S** brother. {41} He first findeth his own brother **SIMON**, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. {42} And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art **SIMON** the son of Jonah: thou shalt be called **CEPHAS**, which is by interpretation, **A STONE**. {43} The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. {44} Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and **PETER**.”



ROCKS are not often used as a major source for a sermon. This message is **AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE**. This sermon is **ABOUT A MAN JESUS NICKNAMED, “THE ROCK.”**

THERE ARE **TWO KINDS OF ROCKS** in **SCRIPTURE**:

#1. PHYSICAL ROCKS

- S Much of **THE EARTH** is made up of physical rocks. **SOMEONE HAS SAID, GOD MUST HAVE LIKED ROCKS** because He made so many of them. There are certainly a lot of rocks to be seen in the great Northwest.
- S **ROCKS HOLD A CERTAIN FASCINATION** and especially in the mind of **A LITTLE CHILD**. **DO YOU REMEMBER** when you were just **A LITTLE KID** picking up **BEAUTIFUL ROCKS** of different **colors, sizes** and **shapes**? **A GOOD ROCK in the pocket OF A LITTLE BOY IS PROBABLY OF GREATER VALUABLE** in his mind, **THAN ANY COIN** is to a grownup.
- S **THE BIBLE GIVES MANY REFERENCES** to physical rocks:
 - 1) **MOSES** hit a rock in the O.T. with his rod and water came out

of it.

- 2) **DAVID** used rocks in his sling when he killed Goliath.
- 3) **JESUS TOLD THE PARABLE OF A WISE MAN** who built his house upon the rock (*petra*) (Mat 7:24-25). That *rock* represented the Word of God.
- 4) Jesus told those without sin to **CAST THE FIRST STONE**.
- 5) **THE PHARISEES** told Jesus to command the people to stop praising Him. Jesus told the Pharisees if the people held their praise, the **stones** (lee'-thos) would have immediately **CRIED OUT** (Luke 19:40).
- 6) **REVELATION** speaks of some people who will run to the mountains and try to hide in the rocks during the day of God's judgment (Rev 6:15)

#1. PHYSICAL ROCKS

#2. SPIRITUAL ROCKS

S THE BIBLE OFTEN USES "ROCKS" TO ILLUSTRATE SPIRITUAL TRUTHS. Examples:

- **(Psa 94:22)**, "But the LORD is my defense; and MY GOD IS THE **ROCK** OF MY REFUGE."
- **(2 Sam 22:2)**, "... The LORD is my **ROCK**, and my fortress, and my deliverer;"
- **(2 Sam 22:47)**, "The LORD liveth; and blessed be my **ROCK**; and exalted be the God of **THE ROCK OF MY SALVATION.**"

THE PURPOSE of this message is **TO EXAMINE THE LIFE OF A MAN THAT JESUS NAMED THE "ROCK."**

S IN PETER WE SEE — GOD'S MAKING OF A SPIRITUAL ROCK. God took **AN OBSCURE FISHERMAN** and made out of him **A DYNAMIC SERVANT OF GOD.**

S **THE GOOD NEWS IS — WHAT GOD DID FOR PETER, GOD CAN and WILL DO FOR ANYONE WILLING** to follow Jesus. God can take **anyone, anywhere, anytime** and make them into A SPIRITUAL ROCK.

- I. THE PROCESS INITIATED
- II. THE PROCESS CONTINUED
- III. THE PROCESS COMPLETED

I. THE PROCESS INITIATED (BEGUN)

S **THE STORY BEGINS** with THE FAITHFUL WITNESS OF THE MAN NAMED **ANDREW**.

- **ANDREW AND PETER LIVED IN BETHSAIDA** (v. 44) which was located on the **northern shore** of the Sea of Galilee about **five miles east** of the city of **Capernaum**. **CAPERNAUM** WOULD BECOME **THE BASE OF OPERATIONS** for Jesus and His disciples during His Galilean ministry.
- **PETER AND ANDREW WERE FISHERMEN ON THE SEA OF GALILEE**.
- **ANDREW** was a disciple of **JOHN THE BAPTIST**. He was with John probably down by **THE JORDAN RIVER**. On that particular day, Andrew had an experience that would forever change his life. John saw Jesus walking and he made the following statement, **"Behold the Lamb of God!"** (v. 36). Andrew understood the implications of such a statement. Andrew left John and began to follow Jesus. Jesus turned and asked Andrew what he wanted. Andrew asked Jesus where He was staying. Jesus said, "Come and see." The text is so detailed that it even tells us it was **THE TENTH HOUR** (V. 39). If John used **Roman time**, as some suppose he did, it would have been 10:00 a.m. If he used **Jewish time**, it would have been 4:00 in the afternoon. Andrew went with Jesus and spent time with Him. It is possible that Andrew was the first disciple to follow and believe in Jesus.

S **ANDREW'S NEXT MOVE WAS PARAMOUNT TO WHOM HE WAS:**

(V. 41 NIV), **"THE FIRST THING ANDREW** did was to find HIS BROTHER **SIMON** and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). {42} **AND HE BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS . . . "**

S **JESUS' WORDS TO SIMON:**

(John 1:42), “. . . And when Jesus beheld him, he said, ‘You are SIMON the son of Jonah: . . . ’”

S **EVER SINCE** ANDREW HAD BEEN **ABLE TO SPEAK** AS A LITTLE BOY, he had always called his brother by the name of **“SIMON.”** **SIMON** was the formal name **ANDREW'S FATHER AND MOTHER** HAD GIVEN to him. **SIMON WAS** a very **common** name in Bible days. In fact, the name Simon designates the names of **nine different men** in the New Testament. **THE MEANING** of the name Simon is **NOT CERTAIN**.

S **THAT DAY** ANDREW **brought** his brother to Jesus, **IT WAS AS IF** Jesus **ALREADY KNEW HIM**. LISTEN AGAIN TO **JESUS' COMMENTS** TO SIMON:

(V. 42), “. . . Jesus . . . said, ‘You are SIMON the son of Jonah: YOU SHALL BE CALLED **CEPHAS** (**Aramaic** meaning **“rock”**) which is by interpretation, **PETER** (**Greek** “petros” meaning **“rock”**).’”

- JESUS USED **TWO LANGUAGES** AS HE SPOKE TO SIMON. **ARAMAIC**, which was similar to Hebrew, WAS a common spoken language of Jesus' day. The New Testament was written in Greek. Thus, it was necessary for the Aramaic spoken language to be translated into **GREEK**.
- BECAUSE OF THE USE OF DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, **IT IS COMMON**, even in our day, for a person to have more than one name. **THE MIRANDA** brothers are a good example. **“RALPH”** is also known as **“RAPHAEL.”** **“JOE”** is also called **“JOSES.”**
- Whether Simon was called **“CEPHAS,”** or **“PETROS** (Peter),” both words meant **“ROCK.”**

S FROM THAT POINT ON, **SIMON NEVER LOST THE NICKNAME** Jesus had given him. **ON OCCASION** he would be referred to as **“SIMON.”** TWO EXAMPLES:

- 1). **“SIMON”** was sometimes used when making **A SECULAR DESIGNATION** such as reference to his **house** or **boat**.
- 2). **“SIMON”** was used when Peter was being **REPRIMANDED FOR SIN**. For example, Jesus sought to restore Peter after he had denied Jesus. Jesus asked him, **“Simon, Son of Jonah, lovest thou me?”** (John 21:15).

- S **SHORT AND SIMPLE**, SIMON'S NEW NAME WAS **ROCK!**
Peter would simply have to get use to the fact that time someone called for him, they would be calling for the **ROCK**.
- S JESUS HAD **A REASON** and **A PURPOSE** for naming Simon the "ROCK." **SOMETHING ABOUT A ROCK** would characterize Simon's new life in Christ for the rest of his life.

IT IS HELPFUL TO CONSIDER SOME OF THE POSITIVE QUALITIES OF A ROCK so that we can apply them to the life of Peter.

- S **ROCKS ARE STRONG**. Rocks are so strong that they are sometimes used as **hammers**. Rocks are often used as **SYMBOLS OF STRENGTH**. I think of **PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE'S** use of the **ROCK OF GIBRALTER**. The Rock of Gibraltar symbolizes strength.
- S **ROCKS SYMBOLIZE** that which is **UNCHANGING**. Rocks are **NOT FLUID**. Rocks can go for **MILLENNIA** with virtually very little change.
- S **ROCKS SYMBOLIZE** that which is **STEADFAST & IMMOVABLE**. Jesus spoke of the wise man that built his house upon the rock (Matt 7). Because his house was fastened upon the rock, it stood strong in the midst of the storm.
- S **ROCKS ARE SOMETIMES A SOURCE OF SHELTER, REFUGE, SECURITY** and **SAFETY**.

DID JESUS HAVE THOSE THINGS IN MIND when he told Simon, "YOU SHALL BE CALLED '**ROCK?**'"

THE VERB TENSE is important in understanding what Jesus said to Simon. Jesus did not say, "**YOU ARE.**" Jesus said, "**YOU SHALL BE.**" Jesus **SPOKE PROPHETICALLY** regarding **SIMON'S FUTURE**.

- S JESUS USED THE **INDICATIVE** MOOD which speaks of **A SIMPLE ASSERTION OF CERTAINTY**.
- S JESUS USED THE **FUTURE** TENSE which indicates action that will be performed in the future.
- SIMON'S NEW NAME **DID NOT SO MUCH CHARACTERIZE**

WHO HE WAS at that moment, but rather who God would **make him to be** in the future. **IT WOULD TAKE GOD'S MOLDING PROCESS** for Peter to become the "ROCK."

- **AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME**, Peter was **A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH**. In order to make the diamond of his life fit for service, God would have **KNOCK OFF THE ROUGH EDGES**.
- S **A SCULPTOR** was once asked how he could take a huge chunk of marble and make **A HORSE** out of it. His answer was simple. He said you have to take the marble and knock off everything that is not horse and then all you have left is horse.
- S **AT THE TIME OF PETER'S CALL**, he was **impulsive, unformed** and **vacillating**. God had begun **A PROCESS** that would make him **STRONG, UNWAVERING** and **STEADFAST**. **THE ONLY WAY** that would ever come to pass would be for God to **KNOCK OFF** everything in Peter's life that was not rock, so then when the process was complete, Peter would be a spiritual rock.
- S **JESUS** saw great **POTENTIAL** in Peter. **HE ALSO SAW** a man who was **NOT LIVING UP TO HIS POTENTIAL**.
- S **SIMON WAS SOMEWHAT LIKE THE LITTLE EAGLE** in the parable someone made up:

AN EAGLE EGG from an eagle's nest in a tree high above rolled out one day and fell to a turkey nest below. The mother turkey never knew the difference. She sat on that egg along with the others as if it were her own. One day all the birds began to hatch and there were five turkeys and one little eagle.

That mother turkey began to teach her little turkeys how to scratch and gobble. Five of them did it with great ease. The sixth one was highly frustrated. His gobble sounded horrible. He could hardly scratch at all. The older he got the worse it became. His life became one of sheer misery.

One day in great discouragement and depression, the sixth little turkey left his supposed brothers and sister turkeys and went out into the woods by himself. A wise old owl was sitting up in a tree and saw the little depressed bird and said, "What is the matter?" He said, "I am frustrated. I can't scratch like my brothers and sisters. I am smaller than all of them. I am a different color than all of them. And I can't gobble like them." "Gobble," said the wise old eagle, "You are not a turkey, my little friend, you are an eagle. You are not made to scratch and gobble. You are made to stretch out your wings and soar."

Well, the little eagle had never heard such things in all his life. He

thought to himself, "Since nothing else is working I might as well try it." He stretched his wings and began to flap them. With each flap he began to rise into the air. To his unbelief he began to fly and to soar.

For the first time, that little eagle found out who he was. In like respect, Peter found out who he was when Jesus call him "rock."

RAY BOLTZ sings a song called ***SHEPHERD BOY*** that illustrates this idea. He sings of a shepherd boy that everyone considered insignificant. When God looked at that little shepherd boy, He saw a king. That boy went on to become the king of Israel.

- S JESUS SAW IN PETER THE QUALITIES OF **A KING, AN EAGLE, A SPIRITUAL ROCK.**

- S IT IS CERTAIN THAT **MANY TIMES** PETER would **NOT FEEL LIKE THE "ROCK,"** but he was the "ROCK," nonetheless. **PART OF PETER'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH** was to discover the person God had declared him to be and become that person.

- S JESUS GAVE TO SIMON **A NEW NAME** BECAUSE JESUS SAW potential in Simon. Simon's new name was **INDICATIVE** of what God would make him to be.

IN SIMILAR FASHION, GOD HAS **GIVEN TO EACH OF US SOME NEW NAMES.** Those new names **WENT INTO EFFECT WHEN** we became Christians. We may not have known what they meant at the time, but we had been given those names, nonetheless. On the day of our salvation, GOD **BEGAN A PROCESS** in us that would see those names brought to fruition in our lives. **PART OF GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN** is to discover what God has declared us to be and become that.

Let's **TRY ON A FEW OF GOD'S NAMES FOR US** and see how they fit.

- 1) **SAINT**
(**Eph 2:19**), "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the **SAINTS**, and of the household of God;"

Do you know what **SAINT MEANS?** It is related to the Greek words for **HOLY** and **SANCTIFIED.** It simply means that we have been set apart for dedicated service to God that reflects the very character of God. The scripture says, "Be ye holy; for I am holy." (1 Pet 1:16).

SOMEONE SAYS, "But I don't feel very holy." Well, Peter probably didn't feel like the *rock* either, but that didn't cancel the fact that he was the *rock*. **WHEN FOLKS HEAR** they are saints, they are tempted to say, "**Not me!**" The question to ask them is, "Is God right, or are you right?"

2) **WITNESS**

(Acts 1:8), "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and YE SHALL BE **WITNESSES** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU HEARD some Christian say, "I CAN'T WITNESS!?" That sounds a little like Peter saying, "I can't be a *rock*." When God called us to salvation, He called us to be witnesses. God does not call us to do what we are **incapable** of doing. Whatever God calls us to do, He empowers us to do. Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt 4:19). It is a process.

3) **FRIEND**

(John 15:15), "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I HAVE CALLED YOU **FRIENDS**; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."

(Col 3:12), "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and **BELOVED**, bowels of mercies, . . ."

Think about your friend and consider what unique qualities that relationship possesses. Is God at the top of the list of our friends? God counts us as His friend. We are *FRIENDS OF GOD*. I know what some people think when they hear that. They might say, "I would never use the word *friend* to describe my relationship with God. I think of God as distant and upset with me." Well, Peter probably didn't think of himself as a *rock*. Part of growing as a Christian is to discover what God has *called us* and to become that very thing.

We are **OBJECTS OF GOD'S GREAT LOVE**. He speaks of us with tones of **affection** and endearment.

"I AM HIS AND HE IS MINE, HIS BANNER OVER ME IS LOVE"

TRY THIS NAME ON FOR SIZE

4) **KING**

(Rev 1:6), "And hath made us **KINGS AND PRIESTS** unto God . . ."

(Rev 5:10), “And hast made us unto our God **KINGS AND PRIESTS**: and we shall reign on the earth.”

This word can make us feel like we are **WAY OUT** of our league. We are tempted to say, “I do not feel like a king.” But mark it down, the day God saved us, is the day God set **THE PROCESS IN MOTION**. Don’t ack like a turkey when God made you to be a king.

I. THE PROCESS INITIATED

II. THE PROCESS WAS CONTINUED

(Phil 1:6), “Being confident of this very thing, that **HE** which hath begun a good work in you **WILL PERFORM IT** until the day of Jesus Christ:”

S THE GREEK WORD FOR “**WILL PERFORM**” (ep-ee-tel-eh'-o) means “to **ACCOMPLISH**,” “to **COMPLETE**,” “to **FINISH**”

S THIS VERB IS **FUTURE, INDICATIVE**:

- THE **FUTURE** TENSE indicates action that will be performed in the future.
- THE **INDICATIVE** MOOD is **AN ASSERTION OF CERTAINTY**. IN OTHER WORDS, **THE PROCESS IS GUARANTEED!** It is **CERTAIN!** It is a **FOREGONE CONCLUSION**. We might entertain the thought of **DROPPING OUT** of **the process**, but don’t forget, we didn’t start the process — God did. God **doesn’t drop** what He starts. **GOD COMPLETES WHAT HE STARTS.**

S **A FAVORITE VERSE TO MANY OF US** ADDRESSES THIS CONTINUING PROCESS:

- **(Rom 8:28)**, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to **HIS PURPOSE**.”
- **WHAT IS HIS “PURPOSE?”**
(Rom 8:29), “For whom he did foreknow, HE ALSO DID PREDESTINATE TO BE **CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

THAT WORD “**PREDESTINED**” MEANS that God decided up front that those who were His children would become like His Son. It is **fixed**. It is a **done deal**. We may try to back out of

it, but God doesn't fail to accomplish what He starts.

S **SOMEONE ASKS, "O, BUT WHAT IF I BLOW IT?"** It might be better to remove the word **"IF,"** and **insert** the word **"WHEN."**

S **PETER IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE "WHEN."** Let's consider **FIVE EXAMPLES OF PETER BLOWING IT.**

- 1) When Jesus took His disciples to **CAESAREA PHILIPPI**, Jesus began to inform them of His upcoming suffering and death in Jerusalem. Like any loyal friend, Peter took Jesus aside and encouraged Jesus to escape the pain. The Scripture says, "Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, **'GOD FORBID IT, LORD!'**" From an earthly perspective Peter received an **A+** on his spirit of compassion. But on his "obedience to God's will test," Peter received a big **"zero."** Jesus turned and said to Peter, **"GET BEHIND ME, SATAN!"** (Matt. 16:21-23; Mark 8:31-33). Peter had become the mouthpiece of Satan. It is pretty clear that Peter had blown it.
- 2) **AT THE LAST SUPPER** Jesus informed His disciples that one of them would betray Him. Peter assured Jesus that the other disciples might deny Him, but he never would. Peter informed Jesus that **HE WOULD DIE BEFORE** he would ever do such a horrible thing. Peter informed Jesus that He was wrong and that Peter was right. Peter was filled with **PRIDE**. Scripture clearly teaches that pride comes before the fall.
- 3) Jesus asked Peter, James and John to pray for Him while He agonized in **GETHSEMANE**. On three separate occasions during Jesus' darkest hour, Peter was found **FAST ASLEEP**.
- 4) After Jesus had awakened Peter the third time and Peter realized the authorities were about to arrest Jesus. Peter **DREW HIS SWORD** and cut off the right ear of Malchus, a slave of the high priest. Jesus **REBUKED** Peter because his anger was outside the will of God (Matt. 26:51-52; John 18:10-11). Peter had blown it again.
- 5) **PETER DARED TO GO** into the **COURTYARD OF CAIAPHAS** the high priest while Jesus was on trial. While in that courtyard Peter was asked three separate times whether he was a disciple of Jesus. **THREE TIMES PETER DENIED JESUS**. Not only did he deny knowing Jesus, **HE CURSED** in the process. What would you do to your pastor if he denied that he knew Jesus and cursed in the process? (Matt. 26:73-75; Mark 14:70-72; Luke 22:59-62; John 18:26-27). Remember how devastated Peter was when Jesus looked at him some hours later. The Bible says that Peter went and wept bitterly (Luke 22:62).

S **PETER WAS A STRANGE MIXTURE** of

- **STRENGTH** and **WEAKNESS**
- **SUCCESS** and **FAILURE**

S WE HAVE REVIEWED **FIVE FAILURES** of a man that JESUS CALLED THE **"ROCK."** IF JESUS CALLED PETER THE "ROCK," AND HE **BLEW IT**, it would be **WISE FOR US** to keep our trust in the Lord, rather than in our own strength.

S **A CHURCH MEMBER** made a pertinent statement. He said he is convinced the only way God can put up with any of us is because He sees the finished product. He has the ability to see beyond our present failures to the finished product in the future.

S We can **BE THANKFUL** that God sees the final product and doesn't give up on us while we are in the middle of the process.

I. THE PROCESS **INITIATED**

II. THE PROCESS **CONTINUED**

III. THE PROCESS COMPLETED

IN SPITE OF PETER'S FAILURES, **GOD NEVER GAVE UP ON HIM.**

(Phil 1:6), "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it **UNTIL** the day of Jesus Christ:"

S **WHEN IS "UNTIL?"** It is the day of OUR **DEATH**, or the day of **JESUS' RETURN**, whichever comes first. In other words, God never gives up on us.

S **MEET THE IMPERFECT PETER AS GOD CONTINUED THE PROCESS OF MAKING HIM THE "ROCK"**

1) IT WAS PETER that preached **THE FIRST SERMON** on the day of **PENTECOST** and **THREE THOUSAND** people were saved and baptized (Acts 2:41). The man who had earlier denied Jesus stood restored. With the boldness of a lion, he preached the gospel even though it could have conceivably cost him his life.

2) IT WAS PETER that said to **THE LAME MAN** at the Gate Beautiful,
• **(Acts 3:6)**, "... Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

- The lame man got up and walked.

- 3) IT WAS PETER that wrote **1 & 2 PETER**. It is believed that Peter was the main source for **THE GOSPEL OF MARK** though John Mark was the author.
- 4) IT WAS PETER that **LOVED JESUS SO MUCH** that he died for Jesus. **TRADITION** indicates he was **MARTYRED** because of his faith. He was nailed upside down on a cross because he felt unworthy to die in the same manner as the Lord Jesus had died.

S **NOW, WHAT IF** God had thrown Peter out with **THE BATH WATER?** What if after Peter's third, or fifth, or eighth failure, God had said, "I am finished with you."

S **DR. HOWARD HENDRICKS** once stated that the people God has used mightily throughout history were not used because they never failed, they were used because they **persevered** in spite of their failure.

S PETER WOULD BECOME **THE "ROCK"** because God **FINISHES WHAT HE STARTS.**

IF GOD DIDN'T QUIT ON PETER, HE IS NOT GOING TO QUIT WITH YOU EITHER. If God has started the "GOOD WORK" in your life, He is going to **FINISH IT!**

(Heb 12:2), "Looking unto Jesus the **AUTHOR** and **FINISHER** of our faith; . . . "

S The word for "**FINISHER**" (**tel-i-o-tace'**) means "**COMPLETER**" "**CONSUMMATER.**" That word in various forms is used **SEVERAL PLACES** in Scripture.

- JESUS USED IT IN THE **SERMON ON THE MOUNT** (**Mat 5:48**), "Be ye therefore **PERFECT**, even as your Father which is in heaven is **PERFECT.**" (**tel'-i-os**)

- JESUS USED IT **ON THE CROSS** (**John 19:30**), "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, '**IT IS FINISHED:**' and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." (**tel-eh'-o**)

S THE WORD **SPEAKS OF:**

- 1) A **GOAL** being **REACHED**

- 2) A **PURPOSE** being **FULFILLED** or **COMPLETED**
- 3) IT SPEAKS OF **MATURITY** being **OBTAINED**

S **"TELIOS" IS USED** in relationship to **MATURE FRUIT**. A time exists in **the ripening process** of fruit when it is uneatable even though it has all its component parts. **NOBODY WANTS TO SINK THEIR TEETH INTO GREEN FRUIT**, even though it will never be any more of a **PEACH** or **APRICOT** at a later time. Immature fruit is **BITTER**. Mature fruit is **SWEET AND RIPE** so that a person can pick it off the tree and enjoy eating it. **FRUIT AT THAT STAGE IS "TELIOS."**

S **"TELIOS" DOESN'T MEAN SINLESS**. Proof is the word **"TELIOS" WAS USED OF JESUS:**

(Heb 5:8), ". . . Being made **PERFECT**, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"

THAT **DOESN'T MEAN** Jesus had sinned. That **DOES MEAN** that Jesus **fulfilled** and **completed** what He had come to do.

S **"TELIOS" REQUIRES "PATIENCE."** A person may pick **AN APPLE** in June, but it isn't going to taste good until October. **IT TAKES TIME** for fruit to become sweet. It takes time for a "SIMON" to become a "ROCK." It takes time for a believer to become like Christ. That is why the Scripture uses the word "PATIENCE:"

- **(James 1:4)**, "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be **PERFECT** and entire, wanting nothing."

- **PAUL WROTE**

(Phil 4:11), "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I **HAVE LEARNED**, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

The word "LEARNED" indicates that a time existed in Paul's life when he had not been content. Contentment was something in which Paul had grown.

- **IN LIKE MANNER**, God is patient with us so that we can mature. **THAT IS WHY JAMES WROTE:**

S **WITH THESE THOUGHTS IN MIND, BE CAREFUL PLACING IN CEMENT A PERSON'S PAST HISTORY, BECAUSE GOD IS IN THE LIFE-CHANGING BUSINESS.**

- The **LITTLE BUTTON** reads, "**P B P G I F W M Y**"
(Please **Be Patient**, **God Isn't Finished With Me Yet.**")

- **A WELL-WORN PARABLE** tells of **A FATHER** who called his **FOUR SONS** to go at the **different seasons** of the year and bring back a **report** on **AN OLD TREE** down by the creek. Each gave a different report based on the season they were asked to go. At the end of twelve months, the father called his sons together and asked which of the four had given the accurate report regarding the old tree, seeing they had each told something different. The answer was they had all given an accurate report, because each reported what was true at the particular season in which they had gone. The father used that experience as an illustration for **THE DIFFERENT SEASONS IN A PERSON'S LIFE**. What is true in one season of a person's life may not be true later in their life. We need to **GRANT ONE ANOTHER** the privilege of growth and maturity without chaining the person to the past experiences of their lives.

STEPS TO MATURITY:

#1. IT BEGINS WITH SALVATION

- **(2 Cor 5:17)**, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is **A NEW CREATURE**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
- **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN GOD'S KINGDOM — NO EXCEPTIONS** (2 Peter 3:9).

#1. IT BEGINS WITH SALVATION

#2. IT CONTINUES WITH SPIRITUAL GROWTH

(2 Cor 3:18), "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **ARE CHANGED** into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

(NIV), "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, **ARE BEING TRANSFORMED** into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

- S **"ARE CHANGED"** (**met-am-or-of'-o**) MEANS "to change," "to transfigure," "to transform."
- S That word would be used to speak of **THE CATERPILLAR** being changed into **A BUTTERFLY**. It would be used to describe a

TADPOLE being changed into a **FROG**.

THAT VERSE TELLS US HOW WE ARE **TRANSFORMED**.
(2 Cor 3:18), "But we all, with open face **BEHOLDING** as in a glass
THE GLORY OF THE LORD, ARE CHANGED into the same image
from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

S "TRANSFORMATION" is **ACCOMPLISHED BY "WITH
OPEN FACE BEHOLDING."** WE BECOME LIKE THOSE WE
GAZE AT. Because Peter was going to be in the habit of gazing at
Jesus, He would begin to take on the character of Jesus.

S If we want to become like Jesus, we must **SPEND TIME WITH
JESUS!** We must let Him do His work of forming us into His
image. We must let him chip out of our life everything that is
unpleasing to Him.

#1. IT BEGINS WITH SALVATION

#2. IT CONTINUES WITH SPIRITUAL GROWTH

#3. IT IS COMPLETED AT DEATH

S **RANDY ALCORN**

"Death is life's defining moment. It is the point where the final
touch is put on each person's life's portrait. The masterpiece is
signed and the paint dries, never to be changed again." (pg 55)

S When we die, we will be **WITH JESUS** and will be **LIKE JESUS**.
At that time the process will be **COMPLETE**.

(1 John 3:1-3), "Behold, what manner of love the
Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the
sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it
knew him not. {2} Beloved, now are we the sons of God,
and **IT DOTHT NOT YET APPEAR WHAT WE SHALL
BE:** but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be
like him; for we shall see him as he is. {3} And every man
that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is
pure."

- Have thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay!
Mold me and make me, After They will,
While I am waiting, Yielded and still. (Adelaide Pollard)

- Something beautiful, Something good,
All my confusion, He understood.
All I had to offer Him, Was brokenness and strife,
And He made something beautiful out of my life