Sermon Series: The Hope That Encourages Us Sermon Title: The Certainty of Our Dignity

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 2: 7-12

3 ways

I. THE CONTRASTING CONSEQUENCES OF OUR RESPONSES 7, 8

A. THE PRIVILEGE FOR RECEIVING HIM

7,**0**

precious (honor) in vv. 4, 6 with reference to Christ it is now applied to believers. An eschatological promise = final vindication on the day of judgment. Importance of faith in 6, 7.

B. THE PUNISHMENT FOR REJECTING HIM

7B, 8

1. The Satisfied Prophecy

7b, 8a

Ps 118:22; Isa 8:13-15; 28:14-16; cf. Rom 9:32, 33 (Israel's unbelief) in larger context of God's sovereign choice in election, 9:1 ff.

See Mt 21:42; Mk 12:10; Lk 20:17, where Jesus himself quotes Ps 118:22 and applies the rejection of the stone by the builders (the religious experts) to their treatment of him. Cornerstone = and his resurrection? Acts 4:11.

2. The Sovereign Predestination

8b

sovereign, divine predestination over all, Lam 3:38; Isa 45:7; Amos 3:6; Acts 2:23; 4:27, 28. Human moral accountability and responsibility. No contradiction between God's mercy and God's justice. Unbelievers get what they deserve= God's justice; believers receive God's mercy. See WCF III.5.

God has vindicated his Son, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone. Those believing on him will be honored with everlasting life and those rejecting him will suffer eternal punishment.

II. THE CONTINUOUS CHARACTER OF OUR RELATIONSHIP 9, 10

the organic continuity between faithful Israel in the OT and the church is highlighted by several OT phrases and categories used for both. From the beginning into the end, God has only one people.

A. OUR REASSURING TITLES

9A, B

Our Conferred Categories

strong contrast. a chosen race-

a royal priesthood – Ex 19:6.

a holy nation – Ex 19:6

a people for his own possession – Ex 19:5; Mal 3:17

2. Our Crucial Calling

recall Isa 43:21. This is our natural, spontaneous, and most fitting response to the superabundance of God's grace to us through Christ Jesus by his Holy Spirit.

B. OUR RADICAL TRANSFORMATION

9C, 10

from Hos 1:2-2:1, 23; Rom 9:25, 26. In Hosea, God reconciles and restores Israel after rejecting and punishing her for her sustained rebellion. A further picture of the glorious redemptive reversals Christ and his gospel.

Not a mere, superficial change but a profound contrast.

Christian identity is for gender context of community. Christian identity follows in organic continuity with God's elect or chosen people in the OT.

III. THE CONSECRATED CONDUCT THAT IS REQUIRED 11, 12

2:11-4:11 = living among, before the Gentiles, unbelievers. Vv. 11, 12 amplified in 4:1-5 and an expansion of 1:15, 16. Christian behavior in a hostile culture.

A. THE PERSPECTIVE WE MUST MAINTAIN

11

1. Our Transient Status

believers experience and must expect a partial alienation in this age. We do not fully belong to this world; we are citizens of 2 kingdoms. We neither avoid nor are absorbed by this world; among but not of.

2. Our Tireless Struggle

intense warfare. 1 Pe 1:13-16; 4:1-5; Rom 13:14 Gal 5:16-24; etc.

B. THE PRACTICE WE MUST MODEL

12

1. Our Effective Persuasion

our evident, convincing, compelling new way of life determined by our new identity in Christ, 1 Pe 3:1,2, 16. Recall 1 Pe 2:9, 10; 1:13-25.

2. Our Eschatological Priority

judgment for salvation of Gentiles? Probably the latter. Our holy way of life has a provocative purpose. Impacts ecclesiology. Role of elders.

011721, The Certainty of Our Dignity, 1 Peter 2,7-12