2/5/23

Sun Pm

“Called to Live Above Reproach”

1 Peter 2:9-12

Letter to scattered believers

* Who you are
	+ Contrast between believers and unbelievers (those who stumble over Christ and disobey the word, v8). “But *you* are…
		- Chosen race (elect of God), royal priesthood (having access to God, serving Him), holy nation (set apart for purpose)
			* Describing believers…disciples of Christ, Jew and Gentile
				+ Romans 9:24-26; Rom 11 – grafted in
* Why you are
	+ *That* you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of the darkness into His marvelous light
* How you are to live
	+ Abstain from the passions of the flesh which wage war against your soul
		- Resist temptation. Do not let sin reign in your mortal body. Be ruthless with temptation – destroy the avenues that it’s most likely to come by.
	+ Keep your conduct among the gentiles honorable
		- Where the above is a battle in private, this is a lifestyle in public, among unbelievers
			* Honorable includes resisting temptation, but goes beyond that. “Honorable implies the purest, highest, noblest kind of goodness. It means *lovely*, *winsome*, *gracious*, *noble* and *excellent*.” (MacArthur).
				+ Not just not being a jerk/sinning, but going above and beyond to be Christ’s representative to them.
			* Above reproach (2 Timothy 3:2)
				+ Not only not doing wrong, but not even giving the appearance of evil.
* The impact on the lost
	+ Removes fertile ground for accusation to take root. Your reputation should not be compatible with any accusations of wrongdoing
	+ Has a redeeming value:
		- They (*unbelievers*) will glorify God (*praise His name*) on the day of visitation (*often refers to redemption in the NT [Luke 1:68]. So, especially when coupled with ‘glorify God’, this likely refers to their responding in saving faith to the Savior you profess!*)
		- Authentication. The good works (new life-living) serve as a validation of the proclamation of the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.