



LESSON THREE: ***The Maturity of a Christian***

Sunday AM Sermon by Ray Reynolds (8/7/11)
GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Text: I Peter 2:1-12

Introduction: We are currently studying through the book of I Peter. His theme is the encouragement of Christians in suffering. Rome was just starting to persecute the Christians, and Peter in his wisdom chose to prepare them for this spiritual battle. He wants to address some spiritual issues, provide an explanation for the “fiery trial” (**I Peter 4:12**), and lift up the community of believers. Peter views the suffering of Christians through the agonies of Jesus, and recognizes the divine purpose of Christian suffering in light of the atonement of Christ. I believe he wanted Christians to establish an unstoppable faith. Specifically, we will be looking at the maturity of a Christian in our lesson today. Let's study together

Discussion:

I. Growing in Christ (2:1-3)

- A. Christians rid themselves of evil.
- B. Christians seek to find salvation and keep it.
- C. Christians should crave the teaching of God.
- D. Christians can witness to the goodness of God.

II. Serving in Christ (2:4-10)

- A. Christians are a living part of a spiritual community.
- B. Christians are a living part of a spiritual body.
- C. Christians are a living part of a spiritual kingdom.
- D. Christians are a living part of a spiritual struggle.

III. Living in Christ (2:11-12)

- A. Christians need to be aware of the facts.
- B. Christians need to be aware of their surroundings.
- C. Christians need to be aware of their influence.
- D. Christians need to be aware of their future.

Conclusion: Every Christian should have an unstoppable faith. You can run us over. You can hurt us. You can even kill us. But, you will NOT stop us. We are Jesus strong! We are filled with the Spirit of God! And, we have a hope that will keep us motivated to move forward. How's your faith? Have you committed your life to Christ?

WORD OF THE DAY = "MATURITY"