

“Proclaiming His Excellencies”

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

Entrance of Enlightenment

Acts 2:3-8, 11 – ³ “And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?... ¹¹— we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 – ³ “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶ For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

Exhibition & Explanation

1 Peter 2:12 – “Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

1 Peter 2:15 – “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.”

1 Peter 3:1-2 – “Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,² when they see your respectful and pure conduct.”

1 Peter 3:15-16 –¹⁵ “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”

Evangelistic Exemplar - Stephen

Acts 6:15 – “And gazing at (*Stephen*), all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.”

Service

Acts 6:2-3, 5 –² “And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.’³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.’⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit...”

Speech

Acts 6:9-10 –⁹ “Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.”

Spiritual Maturity

Acts 7:59-60 –⁵⁹ “And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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