

Read

1 Peter 2:4-10

2 Corinthians 2:14

Consider

When I got married forty-three years ago, I became Mrs. Chow. With a new family name, I inherited the Chow clan history going back all the way to Zhou Dynasty some 3,000 years ago in ancient China. But what hits close to home was that I became an inseparable part of the Chow family. The Chow parents became my parents, the Chow siblings my siblings, and the Chow children my nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. I have since carried this Chow identity, along with the standing, privileges and responsibilities that come with it.

1 Peter 2:4-8 takes us back to how we have come to Jesus “the living Stone”, “the chosen and precious cornerstone”, and through his sacrifice, we too have become living stones that are being built into a spiritual house. Many people may have rejected Jesus, but we have not. Through Jesus, we are now God’s children. As God’s family, we are endowed with the esteemed standings and identities spelled out in 2:9. Like royal titles, they identify who we are as members of the great royal family of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Reflect on these standings and meditate on what each one means. Consider the unique status, privileges and responsibilities that come with each identity: a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God. Read the verse again using “**But I am** a chosen

” affirming your identity before God and ask God to help you fulfill the royal role and duties that he has bestowed upon you.

What great mercy, our sins now forgiven, we stand as God’s beloved children, his chosen people, the priestly saints who now join the heavenly host and all the saints who have gone before us in praising the mighty deeds of God. We serve one grand purpose, “that you may declare the praises of him who called out of darkness into his wonderful light”. Our God is worthy of all glory, honor and praise, and we are called to proclaim his name. While some are called to be missionaries, preachers and pastors, others are called to serve and witness in different capacities. What about you? Do you know where God has placed you and where he is leading you? In what ways and to whom can you proclaim and declare his name?

2 Cor 2:14-15 speaks of the apostolic triumph as Paul proclaims Christ wherever he goes. Here the image of a triumphal procession after a battle is won is depicted here, as perfumes are sprinkled and incense burned along the way, and aroma of sacrifices fill the air. No hardship, suffering and affliction can stop the triumphal victory in Christ. We carry the fragrance of Christ that comes with our

knowledge of him and his life-giving salvation that we proclaim wherever we go, that rises before God and is pleasing to him like sweet aroma of our offerings. As Eugene Peterson writes, “In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade. Through us, he brings knowledge of Christ. Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is recognized by those on the way of salvation—an aroma redolent with life.” (MSG) Do you have this “exquisite fragrance”, “sweet scent” that you carry with you, an aroma full of life to give off everywhere you go?

Deacon Dr. Josephine Chow

Pray

Here is a Celtic prayer to offer to God:

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your hearts to love.
May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,
And may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.

Diving Deeper

So you want to be a missionary

Read Mark 10:17-31

v. 17-22 What do you know about this rich young man, from his running up to Jesus, falling on his knees, the question he asked, to his answer and response?

v.18-20 Consider why obeying all the commandments and fulfilling Christian duties do not lead to eternal life.

Reflect on v. 21. Why does Jesus tell him to sell everything and give to the poor. What has this to do with “Then come, follow me”? How are the two actions related to each other? What does this tell us about the act of following Jesus? Apply the lessons to our present time.

v. 24-27 “With man this is impossible, but not with God, all things are possible with God”. Consider God’s role and the work of Holy Spirit in one’s coming to faith and receiving salvation.

v.28-31 Consider the values and outlook in life that are taught in these verses. Meditate on the lessons and how you can apply them in your current life situation.

How can we live closer **WITH** God in our lives?

How are we being **TRANSFORMED** to be more like Christ?

How is the Holy Spirit empowering us to imitate Christ in what we **DO** this week?