* 1 Peter 2v4-8 Live as a Temple of Living Stones - Sacrifice
  + The Old Testament image of the temple is a background to this passage. Note too Jesus’ words with regards to the temple in Matthew 24v2. Notice how “drawing near to Jesus” results in being built as a spiritual house – by you drawing near, you are contributing to the building of the temple. Your fellowship with God brings fellowship with other believers.
  + Firstly, what elements in this passage speak of Jesus being rejected and chosen?
  + If you are not aware, a cornerstone is the stone which acts as a datum point from which the rest of the building is put together correctly. What does this say about the role of Jesus in the building being built?
  + Secondly, what does this passage say about the church as a whole? How does this connect with Peter’s earlier commands about love?
  + What do you think may be meant by “spiritual sacrifices”? see also Romans 12v1.
  + The last phrase of verse 9 refers to those who reject the message as being “destined for this”. How do you understand this in the light of 2 Peter 3v9? (see also Romans 9v18-20 and Ezekiel 33v11)
* 1 Peter 2v9-10 Live as God’s Special People - Praise
  + Write out two list – one of what you “were” and one of what you now “are” in these verses. Think about the significance of each of these terms. What do they say about our relationship with God and with each other?
  + The list of terms are very much based on how God spoke about the people of Israel in the Old Testament (Read: Exodus 19v5-6 which is just after Israel had been redeemed from slavery in Egypt; and Isaiah 43v21 which is about Israel being brought back from captivity in Babylon)
* 1 Peter 2v11-12 Live as Strangers in the World – Be Good
  + These verses are a transition from the more theological first half to the more specifically practical second half.
  + Notice the passion and strength of Peter’s command.
  + What is the danger of evil desires? (See also James 1v15) Does Peter suggest here that evil desires can be overcome?
  + We have the same evil desires as the world does, but we are to live differently (as “aliens and exiles”). How will the world respond in the first instance to our good?
  + What however may be the ultimate outcome? Note that while the NIV says “on the day he visits us”, there is no “the” in the Greek and commentators consider this is any general day rather than the final judgement. In this case, we are talking about people being saved. Given this verse is the launch of the next section, this understanding conforms with 3v1-2.
  + What does this call for in terms of our evangelism strategy? What impact does us doing good or evil have on evangelism effectiveness? Let’s bring our shortcomings before the Lord.