

Small Group Interaction Questions:

MEANWHILE: The Church that lives and waits
“Hard Reality” 1/4/09
1 Peter 2:4-8

Dear Friends,

What we find in these verses is one of the sharpest and clearest revelations in all of scripture. However, it is hard to declare, and offensive to many. When the Bible declares the hard reality that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation, every other religious and spiritual person protests. The secular world calls names. There is nothing quite as offensive as a claim of certainty in a world of relativism. Study and pray that we will speak with clarity about the Gospel. God bless you as you wrestle with the implications.

Pastor Roger

- 1) Read **1 Peter 2:4-8**. In **v. 4-5** Peter is talking about what God is building. What is the imagery he uses and what does it say about God, his church, and his people.
- 2) Do these verses clarify **Matthew 16:18**? Who is the Rock upon which the church is built, according to Peter himself?
- 3) What are the only two categories of people in the world, as described in **v.7**? What other ways does Peter make clear in this passage that Jesus Christ is the dividing line for the destinies of every person? (**v.6-8**)
- 4) Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of faith, and the stumbling block for those who reject him. (Jesus' own words are clear: **John 3:16-18; 5:24; 14:6**) In what ways does our culture try to soften, or change this hard reality?
- 5) What are some of your struggles with the biblical teaching that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation? What scriptures help you resolve this tension?
- 6) Who do you know who is without Christ? Share some names of friends, family, and work associates and pray together for their salvation, and your own witness to them.