

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"I Am a Rock"

Based on 1 Peter 2:4-10

I have been watching too much television lately. And I find myself rather hooked on these reality shows that follow teams of gold miners and treasure hunters in search of the ultimate prize. Some are fortunate, and armed only with metal detection equipment, find chunks of gold practically on top of the ground, like [Aussie Gold Hunters](#), while others brave the rushing waters of mountainous creeks of wild Alaska, in search of pockets of the gold stuff buried after years of spring runoff as in [Gold Rush White Water](#).

Others search through history and the legends of lost fortunes and trails that go deep into jungle forests, the Spanish gold trail off Florida, or deep into money pits in search of 'bedazzlers' and coins, as in [Cooper's Treasure](#), or the [Oak Island Mystery](#).

Still others are not lured by the colour of gold, but the green of jade in the show [Jade City](#), or the scent of rubies in Iceland on [Ice Cold Gold](#), only to have their permits

mysteriously revoked once the vein of red had been found. Like I said, way too much television.

Oh, if only life were so dramatic and exciting. Crawl around in a jungle with a tattered map in your hand, brave a few head hunters, poisonous snakes, and larger than life spiders, find a treasure before your very eyes, and live a life of luxury and ease for the rest of your days! It works in the movies, doesn't it?

"YOU ALSO,
LIKE LIVING
STONES, ARE
BEING BUILT
INTO A
SPIRITUAL
HOUSE..."

~1 PETER 2:4

There are few people who appear to live that 'rock-star' kind of life: lots of glitter and pizzazz! But I suspect that many of us would not really, prefer that life, if offered. (Well, maybe just a little now and then!). We are Canadian, after all! We are more likely to conservatively step back from the glitter and live life

comfortably as a pretty quartz, a warm amethyst, or cool polished jade.

Our eyes today, in the church, turn toward families. Defining 'family' has always been a tricky thing, as far as I am concerned. I was fortunate enough to grow up in a family that was rather like the Norman Rockwell picture that used to hang on the kitchen wall. But many families did not.

Family have always been a mixed up mess of generational gaps, broken promises, disruption and disappointment. Family has also, always been, a wonderful mess of sloppy kisses, dirty dishes in the sink, giggles from under blankets and whispered words of affection between ballet class and hockey practice. Some families are filled with tragedy and sadness. Some families have a quiet poise and dignity others long for.

Somehow, our society, (and our churches), have assumed that families should look neat and tidy, and include a prescribed list of people in it. But if you actually listen to each other's stories about their childhood and growing

up, families have never been neat and tidy. And I don't think they ever were. A short jaunt through biblical families confirms this. There's murder and mayhem; jealousy and revenge; bitterness and longing. But there's been taking care of each other, respect of the elderly, and praying together. There's been gentle affection, and hard work and vision. There is no right or wrong to families. They simply are what they are.

And I would suggest that the past few months have made us think carefully about what 'family' means. Many of us have been separated from our relatives, not due to a disagreement or a family feud left over from last Christmas, but from a virus that has forced us to close our doors to the world at large. Each of us has had to re-think who our 'family' is in these strange times. And I think we have discovered, that our 'family' is much bigger than we realized. Family is not a Norman Rockwell picture. "Family", is the faces God has put beside you at this time, and in the place you find yourself.

"Christ", Peter said,
"was the living stone." (v4)

But then Peter when on to say,
"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house..." (v5)

My friends,

- You are the living stones of the home you find yourself in today.
- You bring your faith to your family, whatever your family looks like today.
- You may feel that your edges are sharp, or that you offer no beauty to the family, but that is not true.

Because

"Now to you who believe, this stone is precious." (v7)

Because you believe, you are precious.

Precious to Him.

Precious to your 'family.'

In fact, you are very important to the foundation of your 'family.'

- You are the one who continues to pray for your 'family.'
- You are the one who continues to invite the whispers of the holy.
- You are the one who remains steadfast in uncertain times.

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."(v6)

Precious. A cornerstone.

Precious. Chosen.

Precious. You.

- Granite stones are strong and sturdy.

- Talcum is soft and luxurious.
- Mica lets light shimmer through.
- Diamonds express love.

Living stones.

Stones that bring life.

Stones that make life more comfortable, enjoyable, worthwhile.

As we continue on this strange path this spring, and as we anticipate being able to visit our families soon, let us not forget to celebrate the 'family' we have had these past few months. Let us not be put off by jagged edges or seemingly dull shades of grey.

Remember,

- Jade does not glow until polished.
- Diamonds do not glitter until cut.
- Amethysts hide inside unassuming rocks.
- Valuable jewels lie hidden under soil or water or ice.

You are precious.

You are a living stone.

You have been chosen by Him.

Be the living stone for your 'family.'