

**THEN AND NOW**  
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**TEXT: 1 PETER 2:4-10 NIV (EMPHASIS ON VERSE 9)**

**4** As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says: “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.” **7** Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” **8** and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. **9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

By accepting the One the world rejected we found what every person wants and needs—love, forgiveness, and acceptance. We had nothing and were nothing, but that was then—this is now!

Note the *differences* between not knowing Jesus Christ and knowing Him as Savior.

**I. WE WERE PEOPLE OF DARKNESS (vv.9-10).**

**A. WE HAD NO IDENTITY, BUT ARE NOW THE PEOPLE OF GOD (v. 10A).**

**B. WE LIVED UNDER CONDEMNATION, BUT NOW HAVE RECEIVED MERCY (v.10B).**

**II. WE ARE PEOPLE OF THE LIGHT (vv.9-10).**

**A. WE WERE “CALLED” OUT OF DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST (v.9).**

**B. LIVING IN THE LIGHT GIVES US A NEW DESIGNATION (v.9).**

Now we “are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession.”

**C. LIVING IN THE LIGHT GIVES US A NEW PURPOSE.**

That we “may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness.”

**Conclusion**

The *differences* between *not* knowing Jesus Christ and knowing Him as Savior are as clear as night and day. While it is true we were in darkness, that was then, this is now.