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| SUMMARY: We are now back into the book of Peter having stopped for our Easter series. In it we looked in at Jesus death and resurrection but ended with him alive again among his disciples.The gospels make clear that Jesus only stayed on earth for a short time before he ascended into heaven, but before he left, he gave them a mission. To go and make disciples of all nations.The letter of 1 Peter is proof that they, through the work of the Holy Spirit, spread the Gospel of Jesus throughout the known world and in Asia Minor in particular (1:1). Peter wrote this letter to equip the young worldwide church with all they needed to know and do in order to both grow in and share their faith.Chapter 1 and the first part of chapter 2 gave a firm foundation of what their faith was all about and what they were called to do. He also contrasts them to those who do not believe. But in the two verses we looked at on Sunday (2:9-10) he opens up just who this diverse group of people really are.Using four key ideas, Peter describes the scattered church in a way that is comforting, challenging, inspiring and uplifting. It weaves together ideas of authority, responsibility, unity, worship and ownership. These ideas were and are all important parts of what it means to be a member of the community of Jesus. Each of them is part of our responsibility to bring praise to God and to express thankfulness for the mercy that we each have been shown.  |

1 Peter 2:9-10 |  |

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| Who We are & why1. What do you think the disciples and those watching thought as Jesus ascended into heaven?
2. What do you know about what each of the disciples did after the ascension? What did Peter do?
3. The word ‘but’ in verse 9 is used to contrast those who do not believe. How are they defined?
4. What does it mean to be a chosen people?
5. What does it look like to be a royal priesthood? What were the responsibilities of these roles?
6. What identifies the church as a holy nation?
7. How are we God’s special possession?
8. Why might we get uncomfortable about being called God’s possession? Why is it important?
9. What is the purpose of the church according to v.9b?
10. How does knowing you’re not in this alone act as a comfort in times like this? (v.10)
11. Why is understanding God’s mercy crucial to the life and purpose of the church? (v.10)
12. If you had to answer the question; ‘what is your only comfort in life and in death’ how would you answer? (Try come up with your own answer!)
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