Who Are We?
1 Peter 2:4-10

Introduction:
A. 1 Peter written to strengthen persecuted Christians.
   1. Two dangers — retaliation and capitulation.
   2. To fortify against retaliation he reminded them of Christ’s suffering (2:21-25)
   3. To fortify against capitulation he reminds the of who there were in Christ (text)
B. “Prof” Williams: “Don’t forget who you are.”
C. A preacher: “When I get away from here, I sometimes forget who I am.”
D. We especially need to remember who we are when:
   1. Provoked by persecution and injustice.
   2. The desire to conform to the world is strong.
   3. We feel discouraged by:
      a. Problems among us.
      b. Denominational “successes.”
   4. Belittled by “wise of this world.”
E. Let us ask ourselves often, “Who are we?”

Discussion:
I. We Are God’s Chosen Special People (vv. 9-10).
   A. Were nobody, now somebody special.
      1. Living stones in God’s house – Chosen and precious, (vv. 4,5,9 cf. 1 Tim 3:15; 1 Cor 3:16-17).
      2. Royal priests in God’s kingdom (v. 9; cf. Rev. 1:5-7).
   B. Not a “self-made people”, but God made.
      1. “Obtained mercy” (v. 10; cf. 1 Cor 15:10)
      2. “Proclaim the praises of Him (v. 9).
      3. His workmanship (Eph. 2:8-10)
II. We Are God’s Lights in the World. (v. 9).
   A. Lights in the midst of moral and religious darkness (Phil. 2:15)
      1. As individuals (Matt. 5:13-16).
      2. As congregations (Rev. 1:20).
   B. Lights the world needs — not necessarily what it wants. (Cf. John 3:19-21).
      1. Good influence and popularity not the same.
      2. May not be appreciated by world. (John 15:19; 17:14)
III. We Are God’s Heirs to Heaven (1:3-4).
   A. As God’s children (Rom. 8:15-17; 1 John 3:1; Gal. 3:26, 27)
   B. As citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20-21).
      1. Exiles waiting deliverance.
      2. Representatives of values of homeland in foreign land.
   C. As heirs, we “will by no means be put to shame.” — we will inherit (v. 2:6).

Conclusion:
A. How can we get discouraged enough to quit knowing that:
   1. We are God own special people.
   2. We are lights in the world.
   3. We are heirs of heavens treasures.
B. How can we not obey the gospel and become one of God’s own? (Cf. 1:22-24).