

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

### **Our Privileges 1 Peter 2:4-10 Part Six**

We are continuing our study of **1 Pet. 2:4-10**. We are continuing to consider the many privileges that we enjoy as the children of God. What have we seen so far?

1) UNION (VV. 4-5) **“And coming to Him as a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God (5) you also, as living stones are being built up a spiritual house.”** Having been joined to Christ at the point of our salvation everything that is true of Him becomes true of us. And since He is identified as a “living stone” we become “living stones” in Him. And as “living stones” we are being built up into a “spiritual house.” Or in other words we have become the very habitation of God. We have become the very temple of the Spirit. This is not only true of us individually but it is also true of us corporately as we see here.

2) ACCESS (V. 5) .... **“For a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”** Not only have we in Christ become God’s temple we have also become His **“holy priesthood.”** As we examined our priesthood we discovered that just as the O.T. priests were chosen, cleansed, anointed and ordained we also have been chosen, cleansed anointed, and ordained. We also discovered that just as the function of O.T. priests was to offer up acceptable sacrifices to God we also are to offer up acceptable sacrifices to God. The significant difference however between O.T. priests and ourselves is that they offered dead animal sacrifices while we are to offer up spiritual sacrifices.

3) SECURITY (V. 6) ..... **“For this is contained in Scripture. ‘Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and He who believes in Him shall not be DISAPPOINTED.’** When we place our faith in Christ, God’s choice and precious corner stone we have a secured future. This is not so for those that reject God’s choice and precious corner stone. Look at **VV. 7-8 “This precious value, then is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve “the stone which the builders rejected, this very corner stone (Ps. 118:22) (8) “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense (Is. 8:14-15).”** For those who reject God’s choice and precious corner stone that very corner stone becomes to them a stumbling stone and a rock of offense. That very stone becomes for them an instrument of judgment. **PEOPLE CANNOT AVOID CHRIST BY THEIR UNBELIEF.** Either Jesus will be their savior or He will be their judge. For those who reject Christ their doom is certain **“..... For they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.”** In contrast to this group Peter now goes back to those who have believed in Christ and in V. 9 he refers to this group as **CHOSEN.**

4) ELECTION (V. 9) - **“But you are a chosen race.....”** We are a **“GENOS EKLECTON,”** an “elect people.” We may have been and even now, may continue to be passed over for various honors and awards but as believers we know that from eternity past we have been special to the Lord. Not based on anything within ourselves but rather solely based upon His sovereign purposes. The doctrine of election is the most pride crushing, God exalting doctrine in all of the scriptures.

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This morning we will continue to examine the privileges that we enjoy as believers and we do not have to go very far in **V. 9** to find the very next privilege that we enjoy.

### DOMINION

Let us continue to read **verse 9** **“but you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.”** We have already seen earlier in this passage that believers are blessed with the privilege of priesthood and therefore have access to God. Certainly we do not want to go back over the same ground we have already covered. But we learn here that we are more than just simply a **“priesthood.”** We learn here that we are a **“royal priesthood.”**

In other words we are not simply the Lord’s priests but we are also what? Royalty. The word “royal” is the Greek word **BASILEIOS**, which means “king.” We have in Christ not only been given the privilege of access to God but we have also been given the privilege of sharing dominion with Him.

This royal or kingly position in Christ should not surprise us. The Jewish Messiah according to **Ps. 110:4** was to be a priest after the order of Melchizedec. What was so special about this man? Melchizedec was a priest-king. A one of a kind person in the Old testament which you can read about in **Gen. 14:18-20**. Melchizedec was a type of Christ. A forerunner of Jesus. This is clear from **Heb. 6:20-7:28**.

Since Christ is a priest-king and we are united with Christ by faith and everything that is true of Christ becomes true of us we become a **“royal priesthood”** in Christ.

Again as is common with Peter in this epistle he appears again to be reaching back into the Old Testament and making a comparison with the nation of Israel. If there is any doubt about this all we have to do is to reach back to **Ex. 19:5-6** **“Now then, if you will indeed obey, My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; (6) and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”** You might think that the phrase **“a kingdom of priests”** does not convey the same meaning as **“a royal priesthood.”** But in fact the meaning is identical. The Septuagint which is a Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures done approx. in the year 250 B.C. by over 70 Jewish elders translated the Hebrew phrase in **Ex. 19:6** in the exact same way as we find it in **1 Pet. 2:10**, **“a royal priesthood.”** Because Israel did not obey the Lord as a nation they forfeited this privilege. And as a result we now as Christ’s church have been blessed with this future hope.

We see this future hope related to us clearly in a number of different passages in the Book of Revelation.

**Rev. 5:9-10**, **“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (10) And thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our =God; and they will REIGN UPON THE EARTH.’”**

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**Rev. 20:4-6, “and I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (5) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”** Here is a group of whom it is written, **“They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”** They occupy thrones, and the authority to judge is given to them. Who are they? They are all those who belong to the “first resurrection.” They are Old Testament saints, Church saints, and tribulation saints..... The thrones that John saw are judicial seats of regal authority. They are not displayed for mere empty show. The individuals sitting on them are described in the passage as **“priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”** They in other words constitute God’s **“royal priesthood.”** This future privileged position has practical implications for today in respect to conflicts within a church fellowship.

**1 Cor. 6:1-3, “Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? (2) Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? (3) Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life?** If you become involved in conflict with another professing believer hopefully you would seriously consider, if you are unable to resolve that conflict among yourselves of going to a believer or believers you both would agree upon and be willing to submit to their judgment in the matter that you entrust to them.

We as the followers of Christ are privileged. We have in Christ become UNITED WITH HIM, ENJOY ACCESS TO HIM, ARE SECURE IN HIM, ARE CHOSEN BY HIM AND WILL SHARE DOMINION WITH HIM. Now let us continue on in the verse.

### SEPARATED TO OUR LORD

Look at **V. 9** we are not only a chosen race, a royal priesthood but we are a holy nation.

The word “nation” is the word “ETHNOS” from which we get our English word “ethnic.” The word simply means “people.” We are a “Holy nation,” or in other words we are a “holy people.”

What does “holy” mean? The word is HAGIASMOS and it means “separated.” When we place our faith and trust in Christ we become “holy.” Another way of saying this would be that as we place our faith and trust in Christ we become “sanctified.” The “holy” are sanctified. and the “sanctified” are holy. These are interchangeable terms and the root meaning of both terms is “separation.”

This separation or sanctification has both a positional and an experiential aspect.

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1) Positional - **1 Cor. 1:30**, “**But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification.**” We are in Christ already sanctified or set apart unto God. This is why Paul could address the Corinthians in **1 Cor. 1:2** as having been “**sanctified.**”

2) Progressive - Though we are seen in Christ to be fully set apart unto God in our standing our daily experience might be quite different and this is why we see Paul praying in **2 Thess. 5:23**, “**Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely.**”

IN THIS LIFE AS THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST WE ARE IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD BECOMING WHAT WE ARE. WE ARE HOLY IN CHRIST AND WE ARE BECOMING HOLY. WE ARE SANCTIFIED IN CHRIST AND WE ARE BECOMING SANCTIFIED. WE ARE SEPARATED UNTO GOD AND WE ARE BECOMING SEPARATED. SIN IS SO TERRIBLE IN OUR LIVES BECAUSE IT DEFILES EVERYTHING THAT WE ARE.

### CONCLUSION

I believe most of us have seen bird nests. If we have not personally witnessed the hatching of a baby bird, certainly we have seen it on film. After a bird has been hatched what do we see take place? We see a process beginning to unfold. Everyday the bird becomes a little prettier. Still unable to fly it at least begins to look more and more like something that one day might fly. All the while there is that struggle to fulfill its destiny and is to spread it's wings and soar.

And so it is with us we are in Christ holy that is what we are and we are destined to work out what comes naturally but as a baby bird is destined to work out work comes natural to Him. If we see that struggle in our lives to live out righteousness it is a wonderful sign to us that we are in fact one of God's children.