

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Our Privileges 1 Peter 2:4-10 Part Seven

In our every day lives as believers we may be negligent in appreciating all the special blessings that the Lord has poured out upon us. It is so very easy to become distracted. Even with good things. And maybe particularly with good things.

A passage that comes to my mind that I believe addresses this point is found in **Proverbs 30:8** **“Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion (9) lest I be full and deny thee and say, “Who is the Lord?””**

It would seem to me that American Christians are so full with material things that have forgotten the most precious treasures of all. In **1 Peter 2:4-10** a number of these privileges are listed out for us and it would be beneficial for us to be brought in remembrance. What are the privileges that we have seen so far?

- 1) Union VV. 4,5
- 2) Access V. 5
- 3) Security VV. 6-8
- 4) Election V. 9
- 5) Dominion V. 9
- 6) Separation V. 9

This morning we will be continuing our study of privileges and may the Lord bless us with a spirit of thanksgiving for the kindnesses He has poured out upon our lives in Christ.

POSSESSION OF THE LORD

We are the possession of the Lord. Not just any possession but a treasured possession. Let us look again at V. 9, **“But you are a chosen (elect) race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession.”**

The church of Jesus Christ is as much God’s possession as the nation of Israel is God’s possession. But what is very different however is what we were separated from in order to become God’s possession. In the case of Israel they were separated out from the nations .

Deut. 7:6, “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your god has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples (nations) who are on the face of the earth.”

Israel was separated out from the nations but we have been separated out from the domain of darkness.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Col. 1:13, “For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (14) in whom we have redemption the forgiveness of sins.”

For us to become a possession of the Lord in the sense that is spoken of here it required more than the expression of supernatural power in the area of the physical world which was the case with Israel. It required supernatural power to be demonstrated in the area of the spiritual arena. It was not just a matter of separating us, like Israel, from the “**iron furnace**” of Egypt as is stated in **Deut. 4:20**, but rather it was setting us free from sin. **Romans 6:22, “Now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God; you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.”**

This deliverance from sin so that we might become the “**possession of God**” was not at any small price. The price was the “**blood of Christ.**” **Acts 20:28, “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”** **1 Cor. 6:20, “For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.”** Apart from God’s intervention in our lives we would have continued to be a part of Satan’s household, the property of sin but thanks be to God through the blood of His Son we have been set free and we are now God’s possession!!!!

PROCLAMATION OF OUR LORD

Why did God make us His possession? Let us continue to read “**..... that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**” What higher privilege can we enjoy than being an ambassador of the Living God? The word is EXANGELLO (exangello) which is used only one time in the N.T. It means to advertise, to publish, to tell out something otherwise unknown.”

Israel also had the same responsibility. They had the same responsibility to tell out something to the world otherwise unknown. **Is. 43:21 “The people whom I formed for Myself will declare my praise.”**

Is there a difference between what the Lord has called Israel to do and what he expects us to do? Yes in the essence of it but in the substance of it. We have much more to say than Israel as a nation ever had to say. Israel may have had a messianic hope. And a very sketchy and shadowy understand of what God was going to do through the Messiah. But we have been by far the recipients of greater grace and have a message to proclaim that is much more glorious.

What a privilege it is for us to be able to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. What a precious privilege it is to go to a world that is dead in their trespasses and sins without hope and share with them that God so love them that He has given His only begotten Son that whosoever would believe in Him (place their faith and trust in Him as their savior and their Lord) would not perish but have everlasting lasting life. This is our message that we have we is unknown to the world and we need appreciate the privilege that we have been granted to proclaim it.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

THE ILLUMINATION OF THE LORD

Let us continue to read in V. 9 **“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”** What is the darkness that we have been called out from? It is from sin and all the ravages of sin. Darkness speaks of two things. Intellectual and moral darkness. Intellectual darkness means that we cannot see the truth (2 Cor. 4:4 **“In whose case the God of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”** And it also speaks of moral darkness they are totally unable to do anything good. (Is. 64:6 **“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away).** While we were in darkness we were unable to see or do that which was good. But we are no longer there for we were **“called.”**

Every time we see the word “called” in the epistles it always indicates God’s saving initiative. It is a technical term speaking of the election of God put into action. Not put out to the masses but it is God’s effectual call that results in salvation. God has called you sovereignly out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Pet. 1:1, “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen...”

1 Pet. 1:15, “But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.”

1 Pet. 2:21, “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.”

1 Pet. 3:9, “Not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for this very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

1 Pet. 5:10, “And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”

We have been called by God unto salvation to be delivered from the realm of darkness into the realm of light. We not only now are able to see what is right we can do what is right. What a blessed privilege.

COMPASSION FROM OUR LORD

Let us again take a look at the passage but this time let us go on into v. 10 **“For you once were not a people of God; but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”** Again which is so common with Peter he is speaking to the church in language that is familiar to those who are knowledgeable of the O.T.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

In **Hosea 1:6** the Lord is addressing the prophet Hosea who had married a woman named Gomer and after she conceived for the second time the Lord instructed Hosea to name the child “**Lo ru hamah**” which means “she has not obtained compassion.” This had a point for the Lord went on to say to Hosea “**For I will no longer have compassion on the house of Israel.**” Once again we are reminded of the fact that Israel was set aside for a period of time from the full blessing that God wanted to give them. Would this condition of not being the recipients of compassion continue? No! **Hos. 2:23** “**And I will sow her for Myself in the land I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, and I will say to those who were not My people, You are My people, “ You are My people!” And they will say, ‘Thou art My God.’**”

The mercy that these individuals that Peter is writing had received in their salvation is not a fulfillment of the O.T. prophecy to Israel which we have just read. But it does parallel for these writers both Jew and Gentile that experience of Israel.

These readers, like ourselves, in our pre-Christian experience, were “no people” and had not received compassion. But now all this has changed. As it will for the nation of Israel in a future day.

What is mercy? Basically mercy is pity. Another word that we could substitute would be the word “loving kindness.” God in withholding our just punishment is showing us mercy.

There is a GENERAL MERCY which is seen in His patience toward all sinners. God has the right to burn up all sinners but He has in His mercy chosen to pass over sins for a period of time..... **2 Pet. 3:9.** “**The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**” Will His mercy and compassion expressed in His patience last forever? The answer is no!

But we are not talking about general mercy here we are rather talking about SPECIAL MERCY. Mercy on the elect. The elect are equally undeserving but for some people God not only exercises patience but he will give them grace so that they might be forgiven their sins and be forever free of judgment.

CONCLUSION

What are the privileges that we enjoy as believers?

- 1) We have the privilege of being united with God.
- 2) We have the privilege of having access to God.
- 3) We have the privilege of being secure in our relationship with God.
- 4) We have the privilege of being chosen by God.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

- 5) We have the privilege of knowing that we will share dominion with God.
- 6) We have the privilege of being separated to God.
- 7) We have the privilege of being the possession of God.
- 8) We have the privilege of proclaiming the excellencies of God.
- 9) We have the privilege of being illuminated by God.
- 10) And finally we have the privilege of being the special recipients of God's compassion.

We are a motley bunch that deserve eternal damnation but because we are in Christ we have all these spiritual privileges ARE YOU GRATEFUL?