

“The People of God”

2 Pet. 2:9-10

Introduction

- I. Long ago, God selected Israel to be His people (Gen. 12:1-3; Exo. 3:7; 5:1).
 - A. This was a shadow of things to come.
 - B. Under the New Testament, God still sees “Israel” as His people.
 1. The difference is that “Israel” is no longer limited to the physical descendants of Jacob/Israel.
 2. Today, the people of God/“Israel” are members of the church of Christ (Gal. 6:16).
- II. God describes His people/the church of Christ in various ways (2 Pet. 2:9-10).
 - A. The church of Christ is “a chosen generation.”
 - B. The church of Christ is “a royal priesthood.”
 - C. The church of Christ is “an holy nation.”
 - D. The church of Christ is “a peculiar people.”

Discussion

- I. The church of Christ is “a chosen generation.”
 - A. What does it mean for the church of Christ to be chosen?
 1. Some, like John Calvin, believe that God has chosen each individual that will be saved regardless of the individual's desire, faith and obedience.
 2. That is not true. While God knows each individual that will be saved, God chose the church of Christ as a whole (Eph. 1:3-12; 3:8-11).
 3. Only by obedience to the Gospel does one become a member of the church of Christ (Rom. 1:16; Acts 2:47).
 - B. Jesus describe the process of being “chosen” (Matt. 22:1-14).
 - C. During this dispensation of time (generation), the church of Christ contains God's chosen people.
- II. The church of Christ is “a royal priesthood.”
 - A. Under the Old Law of Moses, the Levitical priesthood was only reserved for Aaron and his male descendants (Exo. 40:12-15; 28:41).
 1. The priesthood was essential for Israel to worship God.
 2. Without the priesthood, offerings were not acceptable to God.
 3. Jesus verified this truth (Matt. 8:1-4).
 - B. Under the New Law of Christ, the priesthood is comprised of all Christians, both male and female (Heb. 7:11-14; Gal. 3:24-29).
 1. All Christians are able to worship God without using another earthly priest to offer for them.
 2. We can boldly worship God because all Christians are priests (Heb. 4:15-16).
 - C. The priesthood today/the church of Christ is even more special because it is royalty.
 1. By being Christians, we serve the King of Kings (1 Tim. 6:13-16).
 2. We are the kingdom of Christ (Heb. 12:28; Rev. 1:6).
- III. The church of Christ is “an holy nation.”
 - A. The church of Christ must exist in the world, but not be of the world (Rom. 12:1-2;

John 18:36; 1 Cor. 5:10).

- B. The church of Christ is a “nation/kingdom” (Matt. 16:18-19; Col. 1:13).
 - 1. Christians have to obey the nations in which they live, but our true citizenship is spiritual (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17; Phil. 3:20).
 - 2. It was foretold that Christ's nation/kingdom would be greater than all other kingdoms/nations (Dan. 2:44).
 - C. The nation/kingdom must be holy (1 Pet. 1:14-16; 1 Thess. 4:7; Eph. 5:25-27).
 - 1. The church of Christ must be completely dedicated to God.
 - 2. In order to fulfill this, the church of Christ must live a standard of life that is far different from the world around them.
- IV. The church of Christ is “a peculiar people.”
- A. The word “peculiar,” as it is widely used today, is not meant the same way that the translators of the King James Version used it.
 - 1. Today, “peculiar” is often used to describe something as odd or strange.
 - 2. While the church of Christ may seem odd or strange to the world, that is not what is meant by its usage in the verse being examined.
 - B. To be God's “peculiar people” is to be a people of God's own possession.
 - 1. The church of Christ is indeed the possession of God.
 - 2. Christ paid for the church of Christ with His own blood (Acts 20:28).
 - 3. Each Christian has been “bought” by God (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 7:23; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 2 Pet. 2:1).

Conclusion

- I. There is no doubt who are the people of God today.
- II. The church of Christ is that “chosen generation,” that “royal priesthood,” that “holy nation,” and that “peculiar people.”