

The Ministry of a Priestly People II (1 Peter 2: 4-10)

- Peter presents a high calling of the people of God to prepare for a holy lifestyle
- The people of God are a holy temple, united to Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone
- Last week we began to look at the ministry of a priestly people:
 - 1) A people for God
 - 2) A priesthood of all people, by His grace
 - 3) A people for God's own possession
- Peter declares who we are. He now declares also what we are to do

I. A Holy Priesthood

- Peter says we are a "spiritual temple" now he adds we are a "spiritual priesthood"
- In new covenant there is One priest, in the strict meaning of the word (Heb 5:1)
- Christ presents the only effectual atoning sacrifice. He is the only way to God.
- Through His sacrifice Christ secures access & every spiritual blessing to His people
- Through the New Covenant, Christ has made his people a true priesthood (2:9)
- A holy & spiritual priesthood presenting spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God
- Aaron's sons were consecrated by the sprinkling of blood & washing of water
- So we as Christians have had our consciences sprinkled by the blood of Christ
- We resemble the priests in our consecration, and also in their priestly work
- The sacrifices we present are not expiatory, but sacrifices of fellowship & worship
- Christians are brought into the most intimate relation to God
- The whole of their lives were to be devoted to God's spiritual service
- They are to present themselves, embodied living beings not dead bodies of animals
- It's the gift of the heart which makes other gifts easy to ourselves, acceptable to God

II. Christians: Called to Show forth the Praises of God

- Like Israel delivered from slavery in Egypt, we are called to show forth God's praise
- Peter quotes Isa 43:21 the ministry of the Christian is to declare God's mighty deeds
- Psalms testify of the ministry of God's people to declare His glorious deed:
- Most importantly the praise of God is specially offered up for His work of salvation
- Praise is more than thanksgiving. praise adores God the deliverer
- The core of our worship is not receiving but giving. He lifts us up so that we may lift Him up