

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 15:14-16**.
- B. Every Xian is a priest. We do not serve as a priest, as did those of the tribe of Levi, but we do serve in similar ways (1Pet. 2:5).
you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- C. One way to better know how to function as a priest under the gospel is to see the similarities of service under both covenants.
- D. Unlike under the Law, every member of the church is a priest. It is a kingdom of priests (Rev. 1:6).
and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

I. PRIESTS MUST BE CLEAN BEFORE SERVING.

- A. All OT priests must wash before they were able to do their priestly duties (Ex. 29:4).
“Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of meeting, and wash them with water.
- B. Before men and women become priests of God they are washed in the blood of Jesus in baptism (Ac. 22:16; 1Cor 6:11; Titus 3:5).
(Ac 22:16) ‘And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’
(1Cor 6:11) And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.
(Ti 3:5) He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- C. This washing makes them fit for service in the kingdom (Eph. 2:10).
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- D. One of the great things about our washing is that it is done only once not again and again. Walking in the light keeps our soul clean for service (1Jn. 1:6-7).
If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

II. PRIESTS HAVE AN ANOINTING AND SPECIAL CLOTHING.

- A. The anointing of the bodies of the priests gave them a special aroma that set them apart from the rest of the tribes of Israel (Ex. 30:24).
and of cassia five hundred, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and of olive oil a hin.
- B. Today, Xians receive the HS when baptized and this makes them different from the world (Ac. 5:32; Rom. 8:11-13).
(Ac 5:32) “And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”
(Rom 8:11-13) But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. 12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
- C. We need to make sure that our aroma is pleasing to God (2Cor. 2:14-16).
But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. 15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; 16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?
- D. The priest of the OT wore special clothing to perform his duties. But the outer garments now give

away to those with “inward appeal” (Ex. 35:19; 1Tim. 2:9; 2Pet. 3:4).

(Ex 35:19) the woven garments, for ministering in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests.”

(1Tim 2:9) Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments;

(2Pet 3:4) and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”

- E. Our spiritual clothing comes from those things that we do (Rev. 19:8; 16:15; Col. 3:12-14).

(Col 3:12-14) And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. **14** And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

(Rev 16:15) (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, lest he walk about naked and men see his shame.”)

(Rev 19:8) And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

III. PRIESTS ARE DEVOTED TO THE WORD AND TO PRAYER.

- A. Priests were to know the Law and carry out the instructions found (Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6).

(Deut 4:2) “You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

(Prov. 30:6) Do not add to His words Lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.

- B. Christians are to do the same (1Cor. 4:6; 2Jn. v9).

(1Cor 4:6) Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

(2Jn v9) Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

- C. Priests were also men of prayer; praying and burning incense continually under the old covenant. We are told to pray continually and our prayers are a sweet incense to God (Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4; 1Th. 5:17).

(1Th 5:17) pray without ceasing;

(Rev 5:8) And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

(Rev 8:3-4) And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. **4** And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel’s hand.

- D. We can look at the conduct of the good priests and use their example for our benefit (Rom. 15:4).

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

IV. PRIESTS OFFER SACRIFICES.

- A. This is one of the main functions of the OT priest. Only he could offer the sacrifices for himself and for the sins of the people (Lev. 1:7; Heb. 10:11).

(Lev 1:7) ‘And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire.

(Heb 10:11) And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;

- B. Today, every Xian as a priest, can offer acceptable sacrifices because of X (Heb. 10:4; 9:12; 9:26).

(Heb 10:4) For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

(Heb 9:12) ...and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

(Heb 9:26) ...now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

- C. Xians sacrifice to God by offering a self-sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2).

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and

acceptable and perfect.

- D. Our sacrifices are unlike those under the OC. We do not offer lambs, goats, grain and drink offerings, but ours are spiritual in nature (1Pet. 2:5).

V. PRIESTS ARE TEACHERS OF THE WORD OF GOD.

- A. A priest of God was a teacher of the Law under the OC. David had so many priests during his time of rule that he divided them into the 24 orders or courses and while one group served in the temple the others were out teaching the will of God (Mal. 2:6-8).
“True instruction was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity. **7** “For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. **8** “But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi,” says the LORD of hosts.
- B. It should be no strange thing that in the NT the priests of God (Xians) are to be teaching and preaching the word of God.
- C. The following scriptures put emphasis on the priest of God as a teacher:
1. Matthew 28:19.
“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,”
 2. 2Timothy 2:2.
And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
 3. Colossians 3:16.
Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
 4. Titus 2:3.
Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,
- D. (Remember to review the errors of the priests as talked about in Malachi.)

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Let us briefly review the major points of the lesson:
1. Priests must be clean before serving, our washing is done one time at baptism.
 2. Priests have an anointing and clothing, ours is the HS and our acts of righteousness.
 3. Priests are devoted to the word of God and to prayer, our life is one of devotion and continual prayer as an incense to God.
 4. Priests offer sacrifices, ours is our life.
 5. Priests are teachers of the word of God.
- B. To become a priest one must first become a Xian.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.