

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text and reading: **1Peter 2:1-9** (esp. v9).
- B. We trust that this Lord's day has been rewarding to you, edification unto you, and glorification unto God.
- C. During this series of gospel meetings we are looking at the description of the church as given in 1Peter 2:9.
- D. In the spiritual house of God there are priests and they are to offer up spiritual sacrifices. Tonight we take a closer look at what the OT priests did and then see the NT parallels.
- E. Every Christian is a priest unto God. The kingdom is made up entirely of priests (Rev. 1:5).
- F. Jesus Christ is our great high priest after the order of Melchizedek (Heb.4:14; 6:20; 8:1).

I. EIGHT OT PARALLELS.

- A. First, the OT priests had to wash before they could perform their priestly duties (Exo. 29:4; 40:12). We must have our sins washed away in baptism so that we may serve as NT priests:
 - 1. Baptism washes the sins away (Ac. 22:16).
 - 2. We have been washed, justified, & sanctified (1Cor. 6:11).
 - 3. Saved by the washing of regeneration (Titus 3:5).
 - 4. Faith, repentance, and washing of baptism (Heb. 10:22).
- B. Second, the OT priests were permitted to serve only after the blood of a ram had been sprinkled upon them (Exo. 29:21). We must be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus before our priesthood takes effect.
 - 1. Obedience with being sprinkled with Jesus' blood (1Pet. 1:2).
 - 2. Hearts sprinkled clean of an evil conscience (Heb. 10:22).
 - 3. Jesus sprinkled His blood to make this possible (Heb. 12:24).
- C. Third, the OT priest was not consecrated until anointed with a special mixture of perfume (Exo. 30:24; 30:23,31-33). This made the priests have a distinctive smell as compared to the rest of the Israelites. Today Christians are anointed and different from the world:
 - 1. The HS is given only to those who obey God (Ac. 5:32).
 - 2. The Spirit is given to seal us (2Cor. 1:22).
 - 3. We are the aroma of life and death (2Cor. 2:14-16).
- D. Fourth, the OT priest was required to wear special types of clothing while performing his priestly duties (Exo. 35:19; 28:42,43; 35:19). The outer garments of the old covenant gave way to "inward apparel" with some concern to the proper everyday clothing:
 - 1. Female priests are to wear decorous and well-ordered clothing (1Tim. 2:9).
 - 2. Women are to have apparel of gentle and quiet spirit (1Pet. 3:4).
 - 3. Clothed with a dwelling from heaven; not naked (2Cor. 5:3).
 - 4. Righteous acts are the clothing white and pure (Rev. 19:8).
 - 5. We are to be properly dressed for Jesus coming (Rev. 16:15).
 - 6. We were initially clothed in baptism (Gal. 3:27).
 - 7. The things to put on are spiritual (Col. 3:12-14).
- E. Fifth, the OT priest was non-presumptuous, he did not add to or take away from the Law (Deut. 4:2, 12:32; Prov. 30:6).
 - 1. Romans 15:4 verifies the example of Lev. 10:1,2 and doing things not commanded.
 - 2. NT priests (Christians) also have the same warnings:
 - a. Not to exceed what is written (1Cor. 4:6).

- b. Should not go ahead of the doctrine of Christ (2Jn. v9).
 - c. Do not add to or take away from prophecy (Rev. 22:18-19).
- F. Sixth, the OT priests were to, perpetually burn incense to God (Exo. 30:1-9; 30:34-38).
 - 1. The book of Revelation says that our prayers go up to God as sweet incense (Rev. 5:8; 8:3-4).
 - 2. We are to pray continually (1Th. 5:17).
- G. Seventh, the major function of the OT priest was to offer sacrifices (Lev. 1:7; Heb 10:4; 9:12,26; 5:9).
 - 1. The offering of spiritual sacrifices will be covered in depth on Wednesday night.
 - 2. One interesting thing about their service was that they could not allow any strong drink to come to their lips (Ezek. 44:21).
 - a. Christians offer their lives as a sacrifice each day (Rom. 12:2).
 - b. NT priests do not offer external, but spiritual sacrifices (1Pet. 2:5).
- H. Eight, the OT priest was to be a teacher of the Law:
 - 1. Malachi mentions this in his letter (2:6,7), a priest should:
 - a. Give true instruction.
 - b. Walk in peace and righteousness.
 - c. Turn many away from sin.
 - d. Preserve knowledge.
 - e. Be someone men seek instruction from.
 - f. Be a messenger from the Lord.
 - 2. But in this case the priests showed partiality in instruction, and did not walk in the right way (Mal. 2:7-8).
 - 3. NT priests are also to be teachers of all mankind:
 - 1. Christians are to teach the whole world (Mt. 28:19).
 - 2. Our teaching is to be done to help others teach (2Tim. 2:2).
 - 3. We teach one another in song (Col. 3:16).
 - 4. Older women are to teach what is good (Titus 2:3).
- I. In conclusion, we see the very strong type-antitype given concerning the function and duties of the priesthood.

II. **REMEMBER, WE ARE A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD.**

- A. We are ROYAL in our priestly serving. We serve in the court of the King.
- B. We can be proud of what we are and what we do, without sinning. (Example of the royal family in England.)
- C. We should remember that as Christians we also sit on thrones with Christ in the heavenly places (Eph. 1:20; 2:6).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We need to remember that as Christians we are priests unto God who have work to do. There is no separate priesthood to do these things for us, each Christian must do the best of his or her ability carry out these functions in the church (God's temple or spiritual house).
- B. To fail to do these things is to sin.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.