

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text and reading: **1Peter 2:1-9** (esp. v9).
- B. The church is referred to as spiritual Israel in the NT, which makes it God's nation on earth. Look at the following OT parallels made in the NT:
  - 1. We are the true Israel of God (Gal. 6:16).
  - 2. The apostles sit on twelve thrones, ruling the twelve tribes (Mt. 19:28).
  - 3. We are the twelve tribes scattered (Jas. 1:1).
  - 4. Spoken of as sojourners (1Pet. 1:1; the NASB rendering is unfortunate).
- C. The church is God's nation in Christ, and Peter says it is to be a holy nation. Tonight's lesson is to deal with the characteristics of a holy nation, as well as some things a holy nation should not do.

## I. A HOLY NATION BECOMES HOLY BY FORGIVENESS.

- A. The blood of Christ can make someone holy. It forgives his sins and sets him apart from the world which is in sin (Heb. 9:22; Col. 1:13,14).
- B. Being holy also means a change in lifestyle. We have a different association with unbelievers:
  - 1. We come out and live separate from the world (2Cor. 6:14-18).
  - 2. We must strive to keep body and spirit pure (2Cor. 7:1).
  - 3. Our life cannot continue to commit sin (Rom. 6:1-3).
- C. When one reads the OT prophets he quickly sees that one of the problems was due to the Israelites wanting to become like the Gentile nations around them.
- D. Truly, there is not enough of the church in the world, and too much of the world in the church. Let us strive by holy living to make our calling and election sure (2Pet. 1:10-11).

## II. A HOLY NATION IS NOT CARRIED AWAY BY HUMAN DECEPTION.

- A. There were three main problems at the church in Colossae, summarized by Paul's in Col. 2:8.
- B. More specifically, the three problems still in the church today:
  - 1. Syncretism. This is to believe that one religion is not enough. Syncretism demotes Christ, who is the truth (Jn. 14:6. We do not need our astrology tables, Ouija boards, creeds, and superstitions. Did not the Holy Spirit do His job? (2Tim. 3:16-17; Jn. 16:13).
  - 2. Mysticism. This is the worship of angels, and believing in visions. This is modern day Pentecostalism (Col. 2:18-19). In disapproval Paul said, "The Jews ask for signs" (1Cor. 1:22).
  - 3. Gnosticism. This is the belief that knowledge can be found and is it enough. This is humanism in modern day form. The idea that enough knowledge can be obtained so that one will know how to live.
    - a. Solomon says true wisdom does not come by books (Eccl. 12:12).
    - b. Greeks search for wisdom (1Cor. 1:22).
- C. All of these things (Syncretism, Mysticism, and Gnosticism) demote Christ as being all sufficient (Phil. 4:13).
- D. A holy nation, which the church is, remains faithful to Christ because He is head of all things (form, unity, organization, worship, & work) to the church (Eph. 1:22).

## III. A HOLY NATION IS NOT HYPOCRITIC.

- A. To be a hypocrite means to be a actor or pretender. In earlier times actors and actresses were called hypocrites because their manner of life on stage was something different than what they were.
- B. Paul blasts the Jews for being hypocritical in their lives as compared to the Law (Rom. 2:17-29).

- C. He went so far to say that those of the uncircumcision would be thought of as the circumcision because they would not be hypocrites about it. Sometimes we wonder why we don't grow while other churches do, and this might have a big part of it.
- D. Story of denominational man who "had religion" but didn't get it here.
- E. Hypocrisy kills evangelism. Kills it dead.
- F. We need to be able to share our lives as well as the gospel (1Th. 2:8).

**IV. A HOLY NATION OBSERVES THE LAW.**

- A. The Israelites were told repeatedly to repent of their sins and observe the Law (Mal. 4:4; Hos. 4:6).
- B. We in the church today also have a law to follow; the law of the Spirit (Rom. 8:1,2).
- C. Our attitude toward that law is all important (Ac. 17:11).
- D. A holy nation obeys the admonition of Paul to not go beyond what is written (1Cor. 4:6; 2Jn. v9).

**CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. A nation becomes holy by obeying and living under the covenant given to to them.
- B. Paul speaks of Israel being saved, and says that under the new covenant God will remove all ungodliness and take away their sins (Rom. 11:25-27).
- C. As Jesus invites all to come unto Him, we extend His invitation.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.