

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Peter 2:1-9**.
- B. Tonight's lesson deals with another description of the church as found in I Peter 2. This particular designation can be translated two ways. Either "a people for God's possession" or "a peculiar people."
- C. The OT reference here is Exodus 19:5, where some translations say, "a peculiar treasure."
- D. Paul uses this term in his letter to Titus, and it is from this text that we shall draw the majority of our thoughts this evening.
- E. Read Titus 2:11-15.
- F. We want to discuss the following things as they relate to our being a people for God's possession:
 1. The grace of God that appeared.
 2. The instruction which was given.
 3. Our expectation (hope) of Jesus return.
 4. The cost involved (Jesus who gave of Himself).
 5. We are a people with zeal to do right.

I. THE GRACE OF GOD THAT HAS APPEARED.

- A. Scripture text: Titus 2:11.
- B. No doubt that this refers to Jesus Christ. John said that grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:17).
- C. This claim is further backed up by the phrase, "bringing salvation to all men." Jesus is spoken of as being salvation by Simeon (Lk. 2:29-30).
- D. We must not mistakenly take this phrase and universally apply to all men whether they be obedient or not. Salvation is offered by Christ to all men, but to those who refuse it, Jesus will not save.
- E. We need not wait any longer for the Messiah to come. He has established His kingdom on earth (it is the church), and salvation is offered by the grace of God (Eph. 2:8,9).

II. THIS GRACE GIVEN HAS INSTRUCTED US.

- A. There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is death (Prov. 14:12).
- B. Because man cannot direct his own footsteps, Jesus has given us His words to guide our way (Mt. 7:13-14; 2Pet. 1:17-19; 1:3).
- C. This instruction is two-fold;
 1. It gives us guidance to stay away from sin (Gal. 5:19-21; 2Tim. 3:1-5).
 2. It gives us guidance to do what is right (Gal. 5:22,23; 2Pet. 1:5-11).
- D. Remember Jesus solemn words in Matthew 7:21.

III. CHRISTIANS HAVE GREAT EXPECTATION FOR JESUS TO RETURN.

- A. Sadly enough, many today do not believe that Jesus is coming again.
- B. This type of scoffing has been around for a long time. Yet, we should not think lightly of the long-suffering of God (2Pet. 3:3-12).
- C. The right attitude of a Christian will be that of the apostle Paul and his looking forward to Jesus' returns (2Tim. 4:6-8).
- D. It is our hope of His coming which sustains us in living right.

IV. THE COST OF OUR BEING GOD'S POSSESSION WAS JESUS LIFE.

- A. Once again we see the problem of sin. Our salvation cost Jesus His life, and His shed blood that made it possible for us to be a "peculiar people."

- B. We have been bought with a price (1Cor. 6:20; Ac. 20:28; Col. 1:13-14).
- C. This redemption is so that our sins can be removed, and we can have fellowship with God once again (2Cor. 5:18,19).

V. WE SHOULD BE A PEOPLE ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS.

- A. Look at what God has done for us:
 1. He sent Christ to die.
 2. Taught us of the ways of righteousness we could never know ourselves.
 3. Gave us the great promises of Jesus return and eternal life.
 4. Redeemed us, thereby doing for us, what we could not do for ourselves.
- B. But what have we done in return? Are we a people zealous for good works?
 1. We gripe and complain about the elders, and murmuring is a sin (1Cor. 10:10).
 2. We can't seem to make worship services three times a week, and the admonition of the NT is just the opposite (Heb. 10:24-25).
 3. We pick at one another because instead of looking outside the church to save lost souls we are too busy looking inside trying to get the speck out of our brother's eye (Heb. 3:12-13; Mt. 7:1-5).
 4. We sit around and roast the preacher when the church doesn't grow when the NT says he is only a special servant to train the saints in works of service (Eph. 4:11-12).
 5. We spend too much time majoring in minors while were minoring in majors (Lk. 9:23).
- C. It is possible to be straight as a gun-barrel doctrinally and just as empty spiritually. Just ask the church at Ephesus in Rev. 2:1-7.
- D. We have been created in Christ Jesus for good works, not to tear one another down and so cripple Christ and the church (Eph. 2:10).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We are not to be like the world. Yet sometimes due to our attitude and lack of appreciation for what God has done for us we see quite a bit of the world in the church.
- B. It is easy to spot a Christian who appreciates what he or she has in Christ. They are positive minded, energetic people, zealous to do good deeds. They are not bothered by the common and unimportant for they know what is important and what isn't.
- C. If you are not a Christian tonight, or you are not a faithful Christian then you may not be numbered as one of God's peculiar people.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.