

Message Notes

Now You are the People of God

I Peter 2:9-12

May 28, 2006

Message Outline

Now You are the People of God

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I. REMEMBER our CALLING in Jesus Christ

As the undeserving recipients of God's sovereign grace and mercy, God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once we were not a people, but now we are the people of God. . .

- A. A Chosen Race (Is. 43:20)
- B. A Royal Priesthood (Ex. 19:6)
- C. A Holy Nation (Ex. 19:6)
- D. A People for God's Own Possession (Ex. 19:5, Is. 43:21)

II. RENEW our COMMITMENT to live for Jesus Christ

As the called people of God, we are to live for Him . . .

- A. In WORD: Proclaiming His excellencies (I Pt. 2:9)
- B. In DEED: Living excellent lives before others . . . (1 Pt. 2:12)
 - 1. So that they might see our good works.
 - 2. So that their slander might cease.
 - 3. So that they might be saved and join us in glorifying God.

*I call heaven and earth to witness against you today,
that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse.
So choose life in order that you may live,
you and your descendants,
by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice,
and by holding fast to Him;
for this is your life and the length of your days . . .*

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1 Peter 2:9-12

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1. Read Joshua 24 and Deuteronomy 30. What Biblical pattern do these two passages show us? Identify the Remembering/Retelling piece and the Renewing/Recommitting piece of each? Do you see this pattern any other places in Scripture?
2. What is a "covenant?" Why is the death of Christ called a NEW covenant, in the Bible, and what does it have to do with us?
3. What does 1 Peter 2:9-12 have to do with this Biblical concept of covenant?
4. Examine the four titles that are applied to us as believers in 1 Peter 2:9-12. Explain what each of them means to the person next to you and why they are so precious.
5. Why, according to Peter, has God called us out of darkness into His marvelous light? (The text reveals at least two reasons!) What is the "day of visitation" mentioned in v. 12?

Growth Group Application Questions

Now You are the People of God

1 Peter 2:9-12

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Why did Pastor Tim describe Sunday's service as a "Covenant Renewal" service? Did that seem strange or foreign to you? What did you experience in the service? What did you think and feel? What was your heart response to the service?
3. How does the 1 Peter text and the Biblical concept of "covenant" challenge our "individualism?"
4. If you made a new commitment to the Lord, how do you intend to implement and practice that commitment? How might our "Covenant Renewal" service on Sunday affect our experience of the Lord and our fruitfulness for the Lord? (Dream a little bit! Where might this craziness lead us?)
5. In one sense, our weekly worship service is a chance for "covenant renewal." What would change about our worship if we thought of it this way? What would change in the way you approach worship if you thought of it this way?