

January 17, 2010

A New Priesthood

1 Peter 2:4-10

I. Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 3

II. A New Priesthood: Last week we explored the amazing reality that God is building us up to be His own spiritual house because, through Christ, we are living stones. We are built on the foundation of Jesus, the Living Stone that men rejected but that God chose. This morning we look to our role as the priesthood serving in the Temple of God through Jesus, our Great High Priest of a new order of priests.

III. In the Order of Melchizedek [Heb. 5:4-10]

The book of Hebrews is a magnificent explanation of the new covenant reality that has been inaugurated by Jesus Christ because He is superior to anything yet revealed by God in the Old Covenant. In Hebrews 5:4-10 we read that a Jesus was declared to be a High Priest in a new order of priests – “in the order of Melchizedek”. Because Jesus instituted a new covenant through His blood, a new priesthood and a new law was needed. Jesus began that new priesthood, and we are that priesthood.

IV. A Priesthood, Holy and Royal [Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10; 20:6]

It might be surprising for some to find that the clearest agreement within the Scriptures on this matter of our priesthood is found in the book of Revelation. We are a kingdom and priests, just as Peter wrote in 2:9. Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High, holy and royal. Jesus is also the great High Priest as well as the King of kings. Because of Jesus, we are sons and daughters of God Most High (royal) and servants within His temple (priests). This is surely the reason Peter felt so compelled to call the saints to holiness! Being holy by God’s choice and acting holy are two different things, as the sons of Aaron and Eli all found out! Just as Israel was to be for God “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:6), so are we in Christ and His new covenant.

V. Offering Acceptable Sacrifices [Rom. 12:1; 15:15-16; Phlp 4:18; Heb. 13:15-16]

We do not offer animal or drink offerings on an altar as the Jews once did, but we do have offerings and sacrifices to bring to the Lord. These verses from Romans, Philippians, and Hebrews show us that our whole lives are meant to be offerings to the Great God we serve. We are living sacrifices that are perpetually pleasing to the King. Whether it is the praise on our lips or the generosity we show to others, we can please our God in every moment of our lives because we are the Temple, the priesthood and the sac

VI. Conclusion: What Are You Offering?