**A Peculiar People**

 A Brief Commentary

 by

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 **Introduction**

The purpose for this booklet is to bring to our realization the privilege and responsibility that God has given us as a peculiar people, chosen of God and made kings and priests, giving us the privilege of carrying His Word to a lost and dying people. The unsaved may consider a peculiar person as someone who is odd or mentally ill. But we become a peculiar people when God, in His infinite love chooses us for Himself to serve Him and give Him honor and praise. This we do with joy and love, because He has placed his love on us. This most likely seems odd to the unsaved because they have never known God, But to us as the chosen of God, as His peculiar people, we are the most blessed people in the world.

 **A Peculiar People**

*1* *Peter 2:7-9 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.* ***But ye are a chosen generation,******a royal priesthood,*** *an holy nation,* ***a peculiar people;*** *that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

Paul here, is speaking basicallyto Jewish Christians, however, as gentiles are brought into the fold it applies to them also, because he is speaking to the Church. As a part of God’s family we are a royal priesthood, directed of God to witness to the unsaved of the world.

*Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

*Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth*.

We the Church, are kings and priests. We have the authority of God and the responsibility to preach His Word to the unsaved, to whom we are to minister.

I spent about thirteen years as a volunteer chaplain in the prison system, where I ministered to a group of twenty to forty men each Sunday. They treated me like a king. They prepared the room for our worship services, and anything I had need of all I had to do was ask, and they took care of it immediately, often before I asked. These men were very appreciative of my coming to minister to them and I never had to fear any of them, even though some we serving time for very violent crimes. When God directs us to do something He prepares the way. He literally makes us kings and priests.

Let us consider for a moment our position as kings and priests:

*Mark 10:43-45 But so shall it not be among you: but* ***whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all****. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

The world has given a distorted view of what a king or priest should be. Today, kings or priests are exalted in their position to where they often look down on the people they are to serve, and more often even hold their people in subjection to them. Kings and priests are really supposed to **serve** their people rather than dominate them. As kings and priests of God, He gives us an exalted position, that of showing forth the greatness of God, among those to whom we witness as His servants.

*1 Peter 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth:* ***that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Apostle Paul said:

*1 Corinthians 9:19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.*

*Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity,* ***and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works****.*

If we are zealous of good works, if we are zealous of pleasing God, if we are anxious to do God’s will, and we are desiring to do God’s will, it is most likely that The Holy Spirit is directing us and in this way we show forth praise to God. However, we can be mistaken in our motives, and find ourselves doing things to receive honor for ourselves. Such action is not of God. We should be sure that we have God’s direction in whatever we do.

As a peculiar people we accept gifts from God, for God loves to give gifts to His children. Accepting God’s gifts with joy is part of worship.

*Matthew 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

A man of wisdom once told a young missionary, “when someone offers you a gift of something, even though you do not need it, accept it. Do not take from them the joy of giving.” God enjoys giving to His people. Do not let **your pride** keep you from God’s blessings.

Likewise, as a peculiar chosen people of God, we worship Him with gifts such as our tithes and offerings, but they are worship only if given cheerfully. Only the peculiar people of God will cheerfully give of their substance. It took me years to learn this lesson. I thought I couldn’t afford to give very much. Now I find I cannot afford not to give, as I receive so many blessings from it.

*2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

By His grace, mercy and love, He gives chastisement in order to correct us.

As a peculiar people we will accept His chastisement with praise for Him, knowing that He does this with love for us as His children, preparing us for our eternal future.

*Hebrews 12:5-8 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

He Gives us His Word:

As a peculiar people we worship Him as we revel in His Word, that is we love and enjoy the study of His Word. God’s Word is not just something to read, but something to give us life. Not only an existence, but an abundant life, and eternal life.

*John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:* ***I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*.**

Also His Word gives us direction for our lives which makes our lives even, more worthwhile, more exciting, and more effective.

*2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Some may think I have missed something by not including here, “salvation” as a gift of God. Salvation truly is a great gift, without which we would be eternally lost. However, salvation is given to us as lost sinners and this booklet is written to those who have already received salvation, “God’s Peculiar People.”

We are a peculiar people when we love God for who He is, when we quit thinking about ourselves and begin to think about the Greatness of God, when we enjoy Christ and love Him for what He has done. To enjoy Christ is to trust Him completely, believe him sincerely, and desire to be in His presence.

To enjoy Christ to the fullest (and most of us do not) we must spend as much time as possible, (not just extra time) in His presence: this means prayer, and studying His word in order to learn more of Him. Prayer is not just asking, but listening to, or waiting on Him to learn His will for our lives. I have much to learn about this myself. I have found this a very difficult lesson to learn. But it is so rewarding that Christians cannot afford to miss it.

We often spend much time thinking of our past sins, and asking forgiveness for them, and this is needed. However, we must remember that if we have sincerely repented and ask for forgiveness, then He has forgiven us. We should look to Him with thankful hearts and enjoy the fellowship that He is willing to share with us. We, as a chosen peculiar people, need to quit looking at ourselves and look at Christ. We should praise Him for His wonderful love and grace in making us part of His family.

*Romans 8:17 And if children,* ***then heirs; heirs of God, and joint‑heirs with Christ;*** *if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together*.

No one enjoys being in the presence of a person who is sad and depressed. We should not be sad or depressed, especially when we are in the presence of our Lord. Since He has given us forgiveness and salvation, let us rejoice and be glad, for we know that as God’s Peculiar people we are loved by Him.

I have spoken much about being in the presence of our Lord. Certainly we will not be in the fullness of His presence until we meet Him in Glory. But when we come to Him in prayer with a heart full of blessing and joy for His goodness, we soon find ourselves in His presence; we know He hears us and comforts us. This is The Holy Spirit witnessing with our spirit.

*Romans 8:14-16 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.* ***The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:***

There are times when we go to prayer that it seems that God does not hear us. We seem all alone, unable to find any comfort or happiness. This could be caused by unconfessed, unrepentant sin. Or perhaps our heart mood is not right; we are so wrapped up in our problems that we are looking at ourselves and not at Jesus. This really is sin also. We may have other reasons, trials and tribulations, but regardless of what the reason, we need to lay all else aside and turn our hearts to seek His love and He promises to comfort us.

*2 Thessalonians 2:16,17 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,* ***Comfort your hearts****, and stablish you in every good word and work.*

*2 Corinthians 1:3,4 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the* ***God of all comfort;*** ***Who comforteth us in all our tribulation****, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

Part of our responsibility as God’s peculiar people is to help comfort others in their time of trouble.

He is merciful to His people:

At the time of this writing, I have been laid up for about a year with back problems and a lot of pain. As a result I believe I have learned a little bit about His comfort in such times. This is perhaps the reason for my infirmity. Whatever the reason, I praise God for His love and mercy.

I am convinced that a lot of the depression that doctors are treating could easily be cured if those people would turn to Christ, seeking His grace and mercy and direction for their life. There is nothing so great as the love of God.

*1 Peter 2:9,10 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation,* ***a peculiar people;*** *that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people,* ***but are now the people of God:*** *which had not obtained mercy,* ***but now have obtained mercy.***

Praise God that He has saved us, made us a peculiar people chosen out of this world for Himself; for His own possession. We have the privilege of worship and fellowship with Him. He has kindled love in our hearts for Himself, and has given us His magnificent eternal love, that we may show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. **Let us forever praise Him.**

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