

**Revelation 1: 6; “He has made us Kings ”, Sermon # 4 in the series –  
“The Faithful and True Witness”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall  
on January 8th, 2006 in the Afternoon Service,  
and again on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

The last time that I spoke to you from this passage was on Reformation Sunday. I spoke to you about how important it is that we understand that we are believer-priests before our God. This phrase actually comes before the one on our being priests. So let me review with you, for a few minutes where we have been. As John begins this letter which was to be a circular letter to the seven churches which were in Asia, he first tells us Who grace comes from, and where peace comes from. It comes from God Himself; from the triune God. We are given a description of each person in the Trinity in verses 4 and 5. The Father is the One who is, and who was and who is to come. He is eternally past, present, and future. He is unchanging in His Being, His purposes and His Justice, Wisdom, and Truth. He knew and understood before He created man, that man was going to need a Savior, that He would not be able to long stand in his own original righteousness in which he was created. And so the plan of salvation was worked out between the Father and the Son from all eternity, the Spirit also being present. This was the eternal counsel of God, that He would have a people for His own possession and all things would be worked out for that people by what the 2nd person of the Trinity would do for them.

Grace also comes to all who believe from the seven Spirits who are before the throne. Seven is a prophetically symbolic number signifying what is complete or perfect. This description of the Holy Spirit shows us that it would take a full and complete ministry of the Spirit of God's Son to bring to us all the blessings of this accomplished redemption. And the number 7 indicates the manifold wisdom of God being exerted in the way that it would be accomplished in the way that it would be applied to God's Elect in every generation. The Lord Jesus purchased a full salvation, and through the ministry of His Spirit He applies that salvation. The Spirit is pictured here as “before the throne” because it is His office to be sent into the hearts of every believer in God's Son. The Spirit works cooperatively with the Father and the Son in the application of this salvation that Christ has purchased. He has perfect discernment to see everything necessary, and do everything that would be necessary to work in and to work with, each believer as they grow into conformity to the image and likeness of Christ.

And grace is also said to come to us from Jesus Christ Himself. I told you last time that Jesus Christ is described for us here as the One who, because He has been faithful in life and has overcome death, is showing us His power to wash us and cleanse us from sin. And He is the One who verse 6 tells us has made us kings and priests to His God and Father. This is why all the glory for anything that we do with our lives belongs to Him. Verses 4 and 5 tell us that there are 5 reasons

why you and I as believers should ascribe all the glory for anything we do or anything we become to the Lord Jesus. We looked at 4 reasons before. Let me list them for you. The glory all belongs to Jesus for anything that we do or become because:

- 1) Jesus has gone before us to faithfully witness to the truth
- 2) Jesus has gone before us to overcome death.
- 3) Jesus is our great King and defender, He being the ruler over all the kings of the earth.
- 4) Jesus loved us enough and does love us enough to wash us from our sins in His own blood.

But this afternoon we want to go on to verse 6 and confess that all the glory for what we do or become belongs to Jesus because He has made us kings and priests to His God and Father. To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Let us ask ourselves this afternoon what it means for us as believers to be made kings unto our God? There are 3 descriptions which I would like to give to you which will help you to understand the greatness of what you and I have been called to when we are called here – “kings”, or “a kingdom of priests.”

**1st- We are kings who start out low and are raised high.**

Our becoming kings is surely an act of mercy on the part of God. It demonstrates His power and love in sending Christ to be our Savior. A few verses will suffice to show us that it is so. Turn to Psalm 113 with me. Here God’s people are described as servants of the Lord, and truly this is our primary designation in the time of our sojourning here upon the earth. We are to praise God forevermore that even though He is high above the nations and His glory above the heavens, even though He is so great, that He has humbled Himself to behold the things that are in the earth. Verse 7 states, “He raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash heap, that He may seat him with princes - with the princes of his people.” Now the use of the word “princes” is no accidental designation. It means that by His grace we have been made royalty, and we are children of the King. We have not yet come to the place where we have our full inheritance in Christ’s kingdom yet, but we have enough understanding given to us to know what Christ our King has done for us and, what will come to us in time, because of what He has done for us in salvation. We do reign with Christ and we will reign with Christ in a greater and fuller sense in the day of the resurrection and afterwards.

It reminds me of little king Joash in 2 Chronicles 22, verses 10-12. His father Ahaziah had died and Ahaziah’s wicked mother Athaliah wickedly destroyed all the royal heirs to the throne. But Jehosheba the daughter of the king, took Joash and hid him away from Athaliah with a nurse, so that she could not kill him. He was hidden under the protection of Jehoiada the priest in the house of God for six years, while wicked Athaliah reigned over the land. He was a king, he was going to become a king but for a time he had to be hidden and protected until he could assume the throne. So too, this is the way that it is with all who believe in Jesus Christ. We are heirs of God, heirs of Christ, and heirs of salvation. We are kings

and yet now our life is hidden with Christ in God. At this time, we are under the protection of Christ our High priest and King, hidden in His Church, protected by His ministers, and surrounded by His loyal people. And someday it shall be more evident that we are reigning with Him.

**2ndly- We are kings who need to be taught the Ways of Christ's Royalty.**

Turn with me to 1 Samuel 10: 24-27. Here we find Saul being proclaimed king of Israel. Samuel the prophet is speaking to all the people and he says, "Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people? So all the people shouted and said, 'Long live the king!' Then it says, "that Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the Lord." "And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house." "And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant men went with him whose hearts God had touched." "But some rebels said, 'How can this man save us?' "So they despised him, and brought him no presents." "But he held his peace." Now we need to understand that the people of Israel had never had a king before. They had had the Lord as their king since the days that left Egypt, but now they wanted a king like the other nations around them. They wanted this king to "go out before them and fight their battles," as it says in chapter 8 verse 20. But they had never learned the "behavior of royalty." He taught them this and wrote it in a book. This is exactly what has happened with you and I. When we become a Christian we become kings with the King of Kings the Lord Jesus Christ. He has gone out before us and fought and won the greatest of battles for us, that battle to defeat and deal with our sin. We take him as our king, but we do not know the way and the behavior of royalty. We need to have it taught to us from the Word of God and by the Spirit of God. Those who "hearts have been touched are valiant for truth and righteousness. Those who are rebellious will say, "How can this man Jesus Christ save us" and raise us up to rule with Him? "We will not have this man to rule over us." Unbelievers despise the offers of grace because they cannot then rule their own life they think, if Christ is to rule it. So they will not bring Him any presents. They will not present their hearts and they will not do battle with him against unrighteousness. This can also happen, however, to true Christians. In 1 Corinthians 4: 8 when Paul reproveth some in the Corinthian church for their pride and judgmental spirit he pictures them as earthly kings. He says, "You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us- and indeed I could wish you did reign that we also might reign with you!" We never are made by Christ into this kind of kings. Instead we are kings battling to overcome the world, our flesh and the schemes of the Devil.

You see this so very well in the life of Job, if you will turn to Job 36: 5-7. Elihu is defending God's way of doing things with His people, even when they cannot understand why He is doing what He is doing. This was Job's position. He says, "Behold God is mighty, but despises no one; He is mighty in strength of understanding, He does not preserve the life of the wicked, but gives justice to the

oppressed. He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous; but they are on the throne with Kings, for He has seated them forever, and they are exalted.” That was the position that Job was in even though he had lost all his possessions and his children, and even though he had been a righteous man and not a hypocrite. This is the paradox of the Christian life. We as believers are “seated on the throne” but in this life there may be times when we are sitting in the dust scraping ourselves with a potsherd. Sometimes we do not understand God’s order of things. It is first the cross and then the crown. It is pictured for us in the stain glass window off to the side here in our church. First comes suffering and then comes glory. This is the way it was with Christ and it will be no different for us. We are kings, we are, as it says in Ephesians 2: 6 - “raised up together with Christ, and seated together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come God might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” God is saying, “Look what I have done for you.” “I have made you princes and kings, and I am going to show you all my salvation and make you great.” “It will involve suffering for righteousness sake, but it will all be for your good and it will redound to My glory.”

**And this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and last description that I will give you- We are kings who want King Jesus to have all the glory.**

We are kings who are not only allied with King Jesus, but we are those who seek His glory and not our own. If Christ has given us these high privileges of being kings, we will not seek our own glory to build our own kingdom. we either know the truth or will be taught the truth of Proverbs 25: 27. “It is not good to eat much honey; so to seek one’s own glory is not glory. We are willing to follow King Jesus and lay aside our own glory so that the glory of King of Kings can be seen in us. The greatest kings go forth to battle first and then are admired as conquerors later. The Apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 4: 7 - “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” All of God’s saints, His kings by the grace of Christ Jesus, must learn in the school of opposition, affliction, persecution, and difficulty the ways of Royalty. 2 Timothy 2: 12 says, “For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we suffer with Him (or endure or persevere) we shall also reign with Him.” We will look at this verse Revelation 3: 21 more when we get to it in the exposition but let me share it with you now. The Lord Jesus says to the lukewarm church of Laodicea, that if they would stir themselves up to seeking Him in order that they might find that the best things in this life are not the things that money can buy but the spiritual blessings which He alone can give; He says to them, “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” We are made kings by Jesus Christ and His grace and we reign with Him now, but we still must do battle to overcome our flesh, the world and the Devil. And when by His Spirit and grace we do that we will cast our

crowns before Him on that great day that we see Him as it is so well pictured in Revelation 4: 10. “The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power...” and chapter 5: 10 says, “And You have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign upon the earth.” Our reigning with Christ now will mean that we will suffer with Him at points in our showing our allegiance to our King, but O what glory will come to God and what joy shall come to our souls knowing that Christ shall have all the glory both now and forever.