WHY GO TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY PART 3

Everything on the spiritual plane in the O.T. had a relationship to Jesus Christ.

*(Exo 28:1)* "Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

- Priests are servants and ministers of the Lord, they were to serve in the tabernacle
- Priests are to represent the people to God
- Priests are chosen specifically to serve God in this capacity the way He said to serve

Leviticus 10:1-3  God expects his priests to serve the way He wants them to. Nadab and Abihu were not High Priests but a regular priest is able to be “near God”. As such God expects Godly behavior from His priests.

The clothing of the High Priest had holy significance. Exodus 28:2-3

The Priest’s clothing was external but it had an internal meaning.

**Headpiece was a Turban with a God crown with the inscription “Holy to the LORD”**.

“Holy to the LORD” is meaningless unless you connect it to Jesus, see the connection found in Hebrews 5:1-6

Melchizedek held two positions: King and Priest (came before Aaron appointed Priest) Gen 14:18
In the O.T. a Priest can have only one position … Priest. He could never be both King and Priest. Jesus, however, was both King and Priest. There was only 1 High Priest at a time. When Jesus became High Priest it was Forever!

God’s desire for Israel was that they would become a Nation of Priests. Every person. Exodus 19:3-6

The qualifier was if you obey then you will be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Failed. Would not live by God’s Holy standards.

**Present Application (1Pe 2:9)** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. *(1Pe 2:10)* Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people …

You and I are a chosen race (not color, location or language but Christian race).

A Royal Priesthood … No Ifs, you are by virtue of the fact that you have received Christ as your personal Savior.

Jesus Christ is the High Priest, the Only High Priest Forever …. And King Forever.

**We are the ordinary Priest but a priest none the less who are “near God” thus Royal Priest.**

- You are in an exalted position.
- A Royal Priesthood, a Priest of the King
- You have direct access to God reserved for those who God chose to be in that position.

We who were not a people, not a nation, are now a people, a nation. **We are a Holy Nation and our Nation is called The Church of God. That’s us right here and right now. A Holy Nation of Priests of God.**

**Furthermore, we are God’s own special people.** It is not because of our own excellence or virtues. Our value is based on our ownership. An antique chair is worth a fortune if it belonged to George Washington.

**You are owned by God.** You were bought by the Precious Blood of the Lamb, God’s own Son, Jesus Christ. **We are God’s own special people. We are incredibly valuable. Infinitely valuable…Priceless!**
He has made us all Priests in this Nation (the church) with the purpose of Proclaiming the excellencies of Christ. No “IF” qualifiers. Once you have become a child of God you have also become a Priest.

The second thing to look at is two stones. One on each shoulder. On each stone was written the names of 6 tribes so you would have all 12 tribes. (Exodus 28:9-11) (Exo 28:12) And you shall set the two stones on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, as stones of remembrance for the sons of Israel. And Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders for remembrance. The two stones were on Aaron’s shoulders indicating they are heavy, a heavy responsibility.

Same word used for Jesus in his relationship to us. Isaiah 53:12 Jesus bore the weight of sin upon Himself.

The Scriptures tell us that we are to bear one another’s burdens. Galatians 6:2 How? All the “one anothers” that God has commanded us to do He expects us to fulfill because we are His priests.

OK Pastor Gary, now were back to Works. God tells me to do it so I will do it … fine, He’s the boss.

Notice the next article of clothing. (Exo 28:29) So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breast piece of judgment on his heart, when he goes into the Holy Place, to bring them to regular remembrance before the LORD.

The Priesthood responsibilities are never meant to be a “work”, they are meant to be a Labor of Love.

You are the Priest of your Family. You stand before God for them as an example of Godliness. You pray for them, You feed them spiritually.

You are the Priest of your Community. You stand before God for them as an example of righteousness no matter how bad the community is. Light always shines brighter the darker it is.

You are the Priest to your neighbor. You stand as a Man or Woman of God, bearing Christ’s image in your behaviors and attitudes.

You may be saying “I am such a failure at this. I just can’t be a good Priest.” May I remind you that you are a Priest that ministers together with the High Priest. (2 Cor. 6:1)

Listen to what we know about the High Priest we minister with. Hebrews 4:15
To help you in your Priestly duties you need to draw near to the throne of grace .. to Jesus.

Listen, the King of Kings who is Himself a High Priest invites you to come to Him and get to know Him very very personally. No other Royalty has ever made such a request to you. You are in a rare position.

How do you do that?
- By repenting of your failures and asking God for help.
- By putting time and energy into studying God’s Word … diligent, consistent studying
- By putting time and energy into prayer … daily. (watch the movie War Room)
- One without the other will not take you “near” to the throne of grace.

Why go to church every Sunday? Because you’re a Priest of God and you belong here!