

- Intro:**
- X. Spiritual Privileges - Part 1 - Union with Christ and Access to God
- A. Spiritual Privilege's Initiation - vs 4
1. Coming to Him
    - a. **proserchomai** - to approach, come near, visit, worship, assent to:--(as soon as he) come (unto), come thereunto, consent, draw near, go (near, to, unto).
      - i. **pros** - adds intensity to **erchomai** denoting a drawing near in intimate abiding personal fellowship
      - ii. Hebrews uses the term 3 times - 4:16; 7:25; 10:22 denoting a conscience coming to God's presence with the intent to remain
    - b. denotes the movement of the entire person into the experience of intimate and ongoing communion
  2. as to a living stone
    - a. **lithos** - a stone (literally or figuratively):--(mill-, stumbling-)stone.
      - i. OT designates God as the only rock - Deut. 32:3-4, 31
      - ii. NT designates Jesus as the stone on which the church rests, the cornerstone
    - b. living
      - i. w/o the definite article emphasizing the divine character of Jesus
      - ii. He lives forever having been raised from the dead - Ro 6:9
      - iii. Gives life to all who trust in Him - 1:3,23; Jo 5:21,25; 6:51-53; 1 Co 15:45; Col 2:13; 1 Jo 4:9; 5:11-13
  3. rejected indeed by men, - Ps 118:22; Mt 21:42; Ac 4:11
    - a. **apodokimazo** - to disapprove, to repudiate:--disallow, reject.
    - b. the idea is to reject after examining
      - i. The Jewish leaders were looking for the Messiah - Jo 4:25
      - ii. They examined Him based on false standards and blind hearts - Mt 12:2, 10, 38; 15:2; 16:1;
      - iii. Their conclusion, He did not measure up - Jo 19:7, 12, 15;
  4. God measured Him by a standards of divine perfection - Mt 3:17
    - a. **eklektos** - select; favorite:--chosen, elect.
    - b. **entimos** - valued:--dear, more honorable, precious, in reputation.
    - c. God chose and ordained Him to
      - i. be a Prophet - De 18:15
      - ii. be a God's Servant - Isa 42:1
      - iii. be a King - Jer 23:5-6; Mi 5:2
      - iv. die - Ac 2:23
      - v. be head over the Church - Eph 1:22
      - vi. be a Priest - Heb 3:1-2; 5:4-5
      - vii. Be the chief cornerstone - next passage
- B. The Privilege of Union with Christ - vs 5a
1. you also, - the ones who came to Him - vs 4
  2. as living stones,
    - a. He was the living stone to whom we come - vs 4
    - b. through Spirit baptism,
      - i. we are placed into Christ - realm
      - ii. we are associated with Christ

- we receive eternal life, b/c He has life in Himself
- we become living stones, b/c He was a living stone

3. Access to Spiritual power to live to the glory of God b/c of our union w/ Him

- a. Evangelistic effectiveness - Acts 1:8; 13:46-48; 1Co 2:1-5; 2Ti 4:17
- b. power for service - 1 Co 1:30; Phil 4:13; 2 Tim 2:21

C. The Privilege of Access to God as Priests - vs 5b

- 1. are being built up a spiritual house, - supersedes material building (temple, church)
- 2. a holy priesthood,

a. not like Catholicism

- i. a hierarchy of men over people
- ii. An unbiblical mediation between men and God

b. not the OT priesthood

- i. only one tribe
- ii. only the high priest had access to the holy of holies, once a year

3. In the NT priesthood limitations do not exist - Comparison between the two

a. God chose the Priests

- Ex 28                      Ac 13:48; Ro 8:29-33; Eph 1:3-6; 1 Th 1:3-4; 2 Th 2:13

b. God cleansed them from sin before the started their duties

- Lev 8:6-36              Jo 13:8-10; Ac 20:28; Ro 3:25; Tit 2:14; 3:5;

c. God clothed them for service

- Ex 28:40-43              Ro 4:5, 11, 22; Re 3:5; 4:4; 7:9;

d. God anointed them for service

- Le 8:30                      Jo 7:39; 14:26; 16:13; Ac 1:5, 8; Ro 15:13; 1 Co 12:13

e. God prepared them for service

- Le 8:33                      Gal 1:15-17; Heb 10:22

f. God called them to obedience

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| - disobedient priests | Obedient priests                                      |
| Nadab and             | regard God's word - Tit 1:9                           |
| Abihu - Le 10:1-3     | genuine walk w/ God - Eph 5:8-10; Col 4:5-6; Jas 1:25 |
|                       | Impact on others - 2 Co 5:18-21; 1 Pe 3:15            |

D. The Privilege of Access to God Through Spiritual Sacrifices - vs 5c

1. to offer up

- a. primary function of OT Priests in the tabernacle or temple was offering of animal sacrifices
- b. animal sacrifices no longer necessary in the NT, blood sacrifices completely fulfilled in Christ's death - Heb 8:13; 9:11-15, 26; 10:1-18

2. now we are to offer up spiritual sacrifices

- a. *pneumatikos* - non-carnal, (humanly), a spirit (concretely), or (divinely) supernatural, regenerate, religious:--spiritual.
- b. What are the spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ
  - i. Yourself - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. - Ro 12:1
  - ii. Your resources - Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. - Php 4:18
  - iii. Your worship and prayer
    - by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. - Heb 13:15

- Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; - Phil 4:6; 1Ti 2:1-2, 8

iv. Your doing good - But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. - Heb 13:16

v. Those that you bring with you to Heaven - Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God, that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.  
- Ro 15:15-16