

The 7th Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, June 2, 2019

“A Living Hope: Our Privileges in Christ”

1 Peter 2:4-9

Privilege = a _____ or immunity granted as a peculiar _____, advantage, or favour to a particular person or group, often based on rank, position, or office.” It’s a blessing or _____ enjoyed by some people, but which most people cannot take advantage of.

As followers of Jesus, we enjoy unique and eternal _____ favour –granted by God–because of our position in Christ.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.” (Ephesians 1:3-6)

God has _____ us in more ways than we could ever ask or imagine. He has _____ us into His family as sons and daughters, and as such we have many privileges in Christ. However, unlike the privileges that I enjoy though my membership at Costco, our privileges in Christ are all _____.

We need to acknowledge that sometimes we can view the Christian life more from the standpoint of spiritual _____ rather than spiritual privilege. We can become so preoccupied with the pressures of what we view as the _____ of Christianity instead of cherishing the lasting privileges God has given us to enjoy.

In fact, we can sometimes view these blessings as a _____ reality, reserved for heaven and only to be appreciated in the presence of God, rather than in the here and now.

INITIATION INTO THE SPIRITUAL PRIVILEGES

“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious...” (1 Peter 2:4)

It’s only by coming to _____ that we enter the realm of spiritual privilege.

Coming = *proserchomai* =

litho =

“I will proclaim the name of the Lord; how glorious is our God! He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!” (Deuteronomy 32:3-4)

In the NT, _____ is also said to be the Rock–the stone on which the church rests.

“All of them ate the same spiritual food, and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that travelled with them, and that rock was Christ.” (1 Corinthians 10:3-4)

Peter’s image here is of a stone that was perfectly designed, shaped, and hewn to become the _____ of the church, not merely a stone, but a _____ stone. This stone is _____ because He lives forever, having _____ from the dead. And not only is He alive, but He gives life to all who _____ in him.

“For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants.” (John 5:21)

Even though Jesus is the source of spiritual privileges, Peter tells us that He was _____ by men.

Unlike the religious leaders, the Father measured Jesus by the standards of divine _____.

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)

It’s to this unique living stone–to Jesus–that everyone must go to receive the spiritual _____ that accompany salvation–there’s no other way–you can’t earn it, buy it, fake it, or make it. It’s in Christ, and Christ alone!

“There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

OUR SPIRITUAL PRIVILEGES IN CHRIST

Privilege #1: _____.

“...you yourselves like living stones...” (1 Peter 2:5a)

The good news of the Gospel is that when we come to Jesus, the living stone, in

faith, we too become _____ stones. When we believe in Him and put our trust in Him, we share in His _____ life.

“... it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

To be living stones means that we have the _____ life of Christ. We don't just worship Him, obey Him, and pray to Him; we're _____ with Him as stones in a spiritual _____ of which He's the cornerstone.

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.” (Ephesians 2:19-22)

As believers in union with Christ, we have spiritual _____ to meet our every need.

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...” (Ephesians 3:20)

The _____ of Christ infuses everything we do as believers and is resident in us because of our union with Him.

Are you living your life and faith in union with Christ? Are you drawing on all the spiritual resources that are found only in Him?

Privilege #2: _____.

“...are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood...” (1 Peter 2:5)

Peter realized that life under the new covenant was different from the old in terms of God's _____ with believers. In the Old covenant, God's temple, which represented His presence, was a temporal, _____ house—it was a physical _____ that people could go to. However, access to God—to the Holy place—was _____.

Under the new covenant, _____ are the spiritual house, and God's presence resides in _____, and not just in a building. We are God's spiritual temple—what Paul called the “_____ of God or the church of the living God”—and He dwells in _____ one of us.

“Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honour God with your body.” (1 Cor 6:19-20)

Peter also tells us that, as believers, we function as a holy _____.

Under the new covenant, all believers are part are a holy priesthood, in that we all have full _____ to God.

5 CHARACTERISTICS OF PRIESTHOOD

- **God sovereignly _____ the priests.**

In the NT priesthood of all believers is an _____ privilege, in that God chose us before the _____ of the world.

“You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.” (John 15:16) and 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

- **God _____ the priests before they began their ministry.**

“If I do no wash you have no part with me.” (John 13:8)

“He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds...he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 2:14; 3:5)

- **God _____ the priests for service.**

God has also set us apart, and clothed us in _____ for His service.

“You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:22-24)

- **God _____ the priests for service.**

This anointing identified God's _____ and _____ as resting on the priesthood and symbolized empowerment from the Holy Spirit. Similarly, as priests of the new covenant, we've received the divine anointing of God's power and _____, and the _____ presence of His Holy Spirit.

- **God called the priests to _____.**

Similarly, as a holy priesthood, God call us to obey His _____ and walk in His ways, not out of duty, but _____ for Christ.

“If you love me, you will obey my commandments.” (John 14:15)

Because of Jesus' death on the cross—His _____ sacrifice and payment for sin—the _____ in the temple that separated the people from God was ripped in two.

And under the new covenant, those of us who know God through Christ, have the privilege of full _____ and admission into His presence whenever we want. We don't another person to be our _____ because Christ has made the way.

“Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

Do you see yourself as both the temple of the Holy Spirit and a member of the priesthood of all believers? Do you come boldly before the throne of grace?

Privilege #3: _____,
“to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5)

The primary function of the OT priests, as they ministered in the temple, was to offer animal _____ to God.

All of the animal sacrifices—the rituals and regulations—of the OT were only a _____ of what was to come; and pointed to Christ's great sacrifice once for all on the cross.

The only sacrifices remaining for us—for the priesthood of all believers—are _____ sacrifices. And just like the animals that were offered in the OT had to be best—blameless, _____, and without defect—our offerings must be _____ acts of sacrifice, deriving from pure _____, and focussing on the pure goal of honouring God.

5 SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES

• _____.
“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship...” (Romans 12:1)

God-honouring spiritual sacrifice begins when we offer God all our human _____, including our minds and every part of our bodies for His service. This is the kind of total _____ that God requires.

• _____.
“Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God,

proclaiming our allegiance to his name.” (Hebrews 13:15)

Offering praise to God involves so much more than just _____ the words, saying the prayers, or singing the songs. It begins in our _____ and involves acknowledging and gratefully declaring the divine _____ of God.

• _____.
“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:16)

Doing good involves doing what is _____ and what _____ God; and any good work—whether it's correction which restores a brother, loving and helpful action towards someone, studying God's Word, or speaking a kind word—is a spiritual sacrifice that _____ God.

Sharing or generosity is a specific good work that involves giving up one's _____ to meet someone else's need.

• _____.
Just as Jesus' _____ death, illustrating His love for us, was well pleasing to God, our sacrificial _____ for others also pleases God.

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:1-2)

• _____.
“Another angel with a golden censer came and stood at the altar; he was given a great quantity of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar that is before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.” (Revelation 8:3-4)

The prayers of the saints, both in heaven and on earth, properly offered to God in the right _____, are like _____ that rise before Him and are an acceptable sacrifice n His sight.

Think about your daily life an faith? What sacrifices do you offer to God?

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**Membership has its privileges! However, membership is a choice.
How will choose today?**