

“THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER”

Lesson 40

1. Every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is a PRIEST.
2. A priest is one who SPEAKS TO GOD for others.
3. In the beginning, and to some extent still today, THE FATHER in the home was to be the FAMILY PRIEST. Genesis 8:20, 26:25, 31:54; Job 1:5 and many others.
4. When He gave the law, God offered the PEOPLE OF ISRAEL the opportunity to become a KINGDOM OF PRIESTS. Exodus 19:5-8
5. Israel sinned AS A NATION and God had to appoint a different priesthood. This priesthood was Aaron, his sons, and the TRIBE OF LEVI. Ex. 28:1-3, 29:9; Num. 3:5
6. The Levitical priesthood REMAINED until the day THE LORD WAS CRUCIFIED. Matthew 27:50 and 51
7. The SACRIFICE of Jesus and the RENT VEIL opened the way into the HOLY OF HOLIES, directly into THE PRESENCE of God.
8. As a PRIEST the believer has the PRIVILEGE of DIRECT ACCESS to the Holy God of this universe.
9. OUR priesthood is based on the priesthood of the LIVING STONE. 1 Peter 2:15; Hebrews 9:11
10. The priesthood of the Christian is a BIRTHRIGHT. When we are BORN AGAIN we become a priest with all of its RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES. Hebrews 5:1-4
11. Because of Jesus, the Great HIGH PRIEST, we have access to God. Heb. 9:24
12. We can, because of Christ, ENTER BOLDLY into the presence of God. Heb. 10:19-22
13. We are to be a HOLY priesthood. 1 Peter 2:5
14. The believer priest is to praise God CONTINUALLY. The FRUIT OF HIS LIPS is praise and thanks. Hebrews 13:15 and 16
15. We as believers in Christ are a CHOSEN PEOPLE and HOLY NATION. A people who BELONG to God. 1 Peter 2:9

Conclusion

The truth of this lesson can best be set forth by example, an illustration taken from Acts 16:19-34. Paul and Silas have been put in jail at Philippi. At the midnight hour, in jail with wounds on their backs, what do you think they were doing? They were not complaining and pitying

themselves. Those two “*living stones*” - two “*holy priests*” - were offering the sacrifice of praise to God. The Scripture says, “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God; and the prisoners heard them” (Acts 16:25). They were there also as “*royal priests*.” How does this virtue show in their action? In the touching words of Paul, “Do thyself no harm, for we are all here” (Acts 16:28).

The voices of the “holy priests” offered the sacrifice of praise and did their work there at the throne of God; and the words of the “royal priests” went directly to the jailer’s heart and did their work there. The two “*living stones, holy priests, royal priests,*” glorified God; and the jailer and his family were saved.

This is “the priesthood of the believer.” If you are a Christian, then “there is one God, and one mediator between God and man - the Man, Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).