

1Pet 2.9-10—The Honor Given by God to All Who Believe

The honor God's placed upon believers, vv.9, 7

- I. You're a chosen race or generation, which highlights two things:
 - A. The sovereign choice of God in your salvation.
 1. Believers are a chosen people, chosen by the sovereign pleasure of God, Jn 15.16; Jn 1.12-13
 2. Our believing in God and coming to God are the fruit of His initiatory, regenerating work in us, Jn 6.44; 1Jn 4.19; Ezk 36
 - B. God's choice of us brings us into a brotherhood, a race.
 1. We were chosen out of the world and brought into a fellowship of other believers, with a special and unique unity, Eph 4.4-6
 - C. Do you remember what you were before God came to you? Eph 2.1-3, 11-12; Ezk 16.1-5; Rom 5.8, 10
- II. You've been made into a royal priesthood, cf. v.5; Rom 8.16-17
 - A. We're kings of the King, saved to share in His victory over darkness, sin, Satan, death, and hell, 1Jn 5.4; Mt 19.28. What an incomparable honor! Happy are the people saved by the LORD!
- III. You've become a holy nation.
 - A. Separated from the world by God's redeeming grace, we've been brought together under the headship of Christ and made into a nation for His glory, Eph 1.22-23; Ps 107.1-3
 - B. Not bound by earthly borders. Not bound by earthly ancestry. Not bound by time. We are a nation of kings and priests (Ex 19.6), a nation of holiness (Tit 2.11-14), one nation under God (Ps 144.15), a nation at war against sin (2Cor 10.3-5).
- IV. You're a people owned by God, 1Cor 6.19-20; Col 1.13-14; Tit 2.14; Ps 56.9; Mt 11.28
How honored we are! What a difference the grace of God has made in us! Is there any greater dignity possible to men?

Why you? v.10

- I. Don't ever forget who you were before these honors.
 - A. You were not a people (Hos 1.9), not even worth being called a people. You were slaves to sin, in the service of Satan, as good as dead, a stranger to happiness, the home of misery.

- B. You had not received mercy (Hos 1.6), but were under the wrath of God. Above you was an angry God, around you were all the instruments of His vengeance, and beneath you was the pit of hell yawning wide to receive you.
- C. But God, Rom 5.8, 10
 1. God had mercy on you. He came to you when you sought Him not. He redeemed you when you were helplessly enslaved and delivered you when you were hopelessly bound. He came to you in His Son to make Himself your God and you His people
- D. All these privileges and honors are entirely of His great mercy, 1Pet 1.3. What you are in Christ now, you were not; and the mercy you enjoy now, you knew not. Where would you be if God had not had mercy on you? if God had not taken you in? How great, then, is the obligation of His love and mercy upon you?

For what purpose has God honored you? v.9

- I. God had mercy on you in order that you might spend your entire life proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called you out of your sin-filled, miserable darkness and into His marvelous, saving, grace-filled light, Ps 107.1-3
- II. How you're to do that is spelled out in some detail in 2.11-3.12

Reflections for Application

- I. These verses should bring you down to the dust in humility. Every blessing you have from God is a pure gift of His grace and mercy.
 - A. There's no place at all for pride in the life of a Christian, Gal 6.14; Eph 2.8-9. We are children of His mercy and grace.
 - B. Meditate on this until your pride is dashed to pieces and your life is adorned by humility.
- II. These privileges aren't temporary, provisional titles. They declare who you are. They are your primary, principal, and therefore determinative, identity. This is who God made you to be.
 - A. Don't seek your honor, joys, or comfort among men. You already have all these in God.
 - B. Study these honors and let them stir your faith, cheer your heart, and motivate you to a life of proclaiming His excellencies by grateful obedience to His will.