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The People of God

1 PETER 2:9-10

Introduction

1. I would like for you to look again at the passage which Lucas read for us just a few minutes ago and see what Peter says about those of us here this morning who are Christians.

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“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9–10, NASB95)

2. Notice the four titles which Peter applies to us as Christians:
 - a. “A chosen race (generation, NKJV; people, NIV84)”
 - b. “A royal priesthood”
 - c. “A holy nation”
 - d. “A people for God’s own possession” (“His own special people,” NKJV; “a people belonging to God,” NIV84)
3. Peter adds that we are people who God “has called out of darkness into His marvelous light.”
4. He then sums this up with “once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (v. 10).
5. What has happened to make all of this possible in our lives?
6. That is what I would like for you to consider this morning, because you now

hold a special place before our heavenly Father, a place which none of us should take lightly.

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I. We Have Been Redeemed By Christ's Own Blood

A. JESUS REDEEMED US FROM OUR SLAVERY TO SIN

1. If someone wanted to gain possession of a slave, they would pay the owner of that slave a sum of money.
2. If they wanted to see that slave become a free man, they would purchase him from his master and then set him free.
3. Thus the slave was said to be redeemed.
4. The Bible speaks of our having been redeemed in this way (John 8:34-36).

“Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. “The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:34–36, NASB95)

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5. Paul wrote Timothy to tell him that Jesus Christ “gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds” (Titus 2:14).
6. He also told the Christians in Ephesus that “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7, NASB95).

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B. HE PAID THE PRICE FOR OUR RANSOM

1. Another word closely connected with redemption is the word “ransom.”
2. Sin held us in bondage (2 Timothy 2:26).

“the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.” (2 Timothy 2:26, NASB95)

3. Jesus paid the ransom price necessary to ransom us from sin's hold on us.
4. He told His disciples "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).
5. Likewise, Paul wrote to Timothy that Jesus Christ "gave Himself as a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:6).
6. Often we sing the hymn, "Salvation Has Been Brought Down," in which we declare . . .
 - a. Jesus gave His life a ransom [for us] on Calvary
 - b. Paved the way by blood that we might win a bright shining crown
 - c. Salvation has been brought down.

Slide 6**C. HE SAVED US FROM THE PENALTY WHICH OUR SINS DESERVED**

1. Yet another definition of the word redeem is "to save from sin, error, or evil."
2. Sin has serious consequences (Romans 6:23).

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23, NASB95)

 - a. Many of you have perhaps played the board game known as Monopoly.
 - b. No doubt, at one time or another you drew the card which said, "Go to jail, Do not pass Go, Do not collect \$200."
 - c. Those consequences were "the luck of the draw."
 - d. Paul, however, tells us that the consequences we will experience because of our sin is not "the luck of the draw."
 - e. He figuratively uses the word "wages" to indicate death is something we are getting because we deserve it.
 - f. We worked for it.
3. Thankfully, God saves us from the penalty which our sins deserve, not because we deserve to be saved, but because He is a merciful God (Titus 3:5).

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in

righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,” (Titus 3:5, NASB95)

Slide 7**D. OUR REDEMPTION CAME AT GREAT COST**

1. In Peter’s letter to the churches of Asia Minor, he wrote, “you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” (1 Peter 1:18–19, NASB95)
2. Our redemption is only possible through Jesus sacrifice of His own blood.

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7, NASB95)

3. In Revelation 1:5, John speaks of Jesus Christ as He “who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood.”

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4. In Revelation 5:9, John writes of the praise which those gathered around the throne of God give to the Lamb (Jesus Christ).
5. They proclaim Him worthy because “You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”
5. Even after we become Christians, if we sin, it is His blood which continues to cleanse us from our sin (1 John 1:7).

[As you can see, our redemption comes at a very high price. If we are Christians, it is with His own blood that Jesus has signed our ransom papers.]

Slide 9**II. We Have Been Sealed By The Holy Spirit****A. WE HAVE GOD’S SEAL — THE HOLY SPIRIT — UPON US**

1. God uses a seal to identify those who are His, but what is this seal?
2. In Ephesians 1:13-14, Paul writes, “In Him, you also, after listening to the

message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

- a. The Holy Spirit is "the Holy Spirit of promise."
- b. The Holy Spirit is given as a "pledge of our inheritance."
- c. All of this looks "to the redemption of God's own possession."

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- 3. And in 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, we find, "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge."
- 4. We must now make every effort to live holy lives so that we "do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30).

Slide 11**B. THIS SEAL HAS A SPECIAL PURPOSE**

- 1. It identifies us as belonging to Him.

"the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His" (2 Timothy 2:19a, NASB95)

- 2. It secures our redemption.

"who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory." (Ephesians 1:14, NASB95)

- a. Paul states that God's seal, the Holy spirit is given to us as "a pledge of our inheritance."
- b. This "pledge of our inheritance" looks to the day when God will redeem us as His "own possession."

3. It marks us as those who have been granted new, abundant life.
 - a. On one occasion, when Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Booths, He told the people, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10, NASB95).
 - b. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the saints in Rome, said that we were raised from our baptism to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).
 - b. The new, abundant life includes life to our mortal bodies through a resurrected, transformed body (Romans 8:11).

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” (Romans 8:11, NASB95)

4. The Holy Spirit is the means by which God renews us (Titus 3:5-6).

“He [God] saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,” (Titus 3:5–6, NASB95)

5. He is also the means by which God dwells in us, His people (1 Corinthians 6:19).

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19, NASB95)

6. When is it that God places His seal upon us?

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7. Peter answers this question for us on at least two occasions.

- a. Pentecost

“Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive

the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38, NASB95)

b. Before the Jewish Sanhedrin

“And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.” (Acts 5:32, NASB95)

[So it is that God gives us His Holy Spirit at our baptism. He (the Holy Spirit) is God’s seal upon us that we belong to Him, He is also God’s promise to us that He will claim us as His own on the day of judgment and take us home to be with Him forevermore.]

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III. We Have Been Set Free From Death’s Power By Christ’s Resurrection

A. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

1. Identifies Jesus as the Son of God (Romans 1:4).

“who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,” (Romans 1:4, NASB95)

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2. Takes away sin’s power (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

““O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:55–57, NASB95)

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3. Makes our hope possible (1 Peter 1:3).

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” (1 Peter 1:3, NASB95)

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4. Provides the power in baptism to take away our sin (1 Peter 3:21).

“Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” (1 Peter 3:21, NASB95)

B. ALL OF THIS IS BASED UPON OUR LORD’S RESURRECTION

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is very important.
2. Without His resurrection, we would have no hope of a life beyond this life with our Father in Heaven.
3. Death would have the final say in our lives.
4. But because of His resurrection we are delivered from sin’s control and death’s power!

Conclusion

1. I wish that all of you here today could know the privilege of having these blessings in your life today.
2. But, it is not within my power to grant them to you.
3. God alone is the one who makes these things possible.
4. He does it through the death, burial and resurrection of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

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5. Long ago, Jesus said to the church in Laodicea, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20).
6. Today, will you hear His voice and open the door to your heart?
7. If so, you too can know the blessings which we as Christians share together.