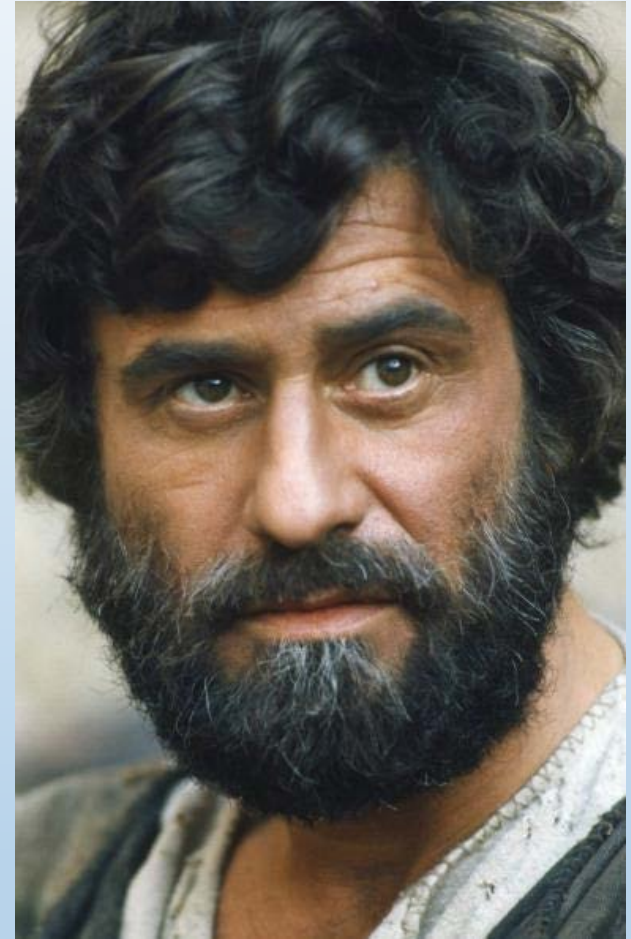
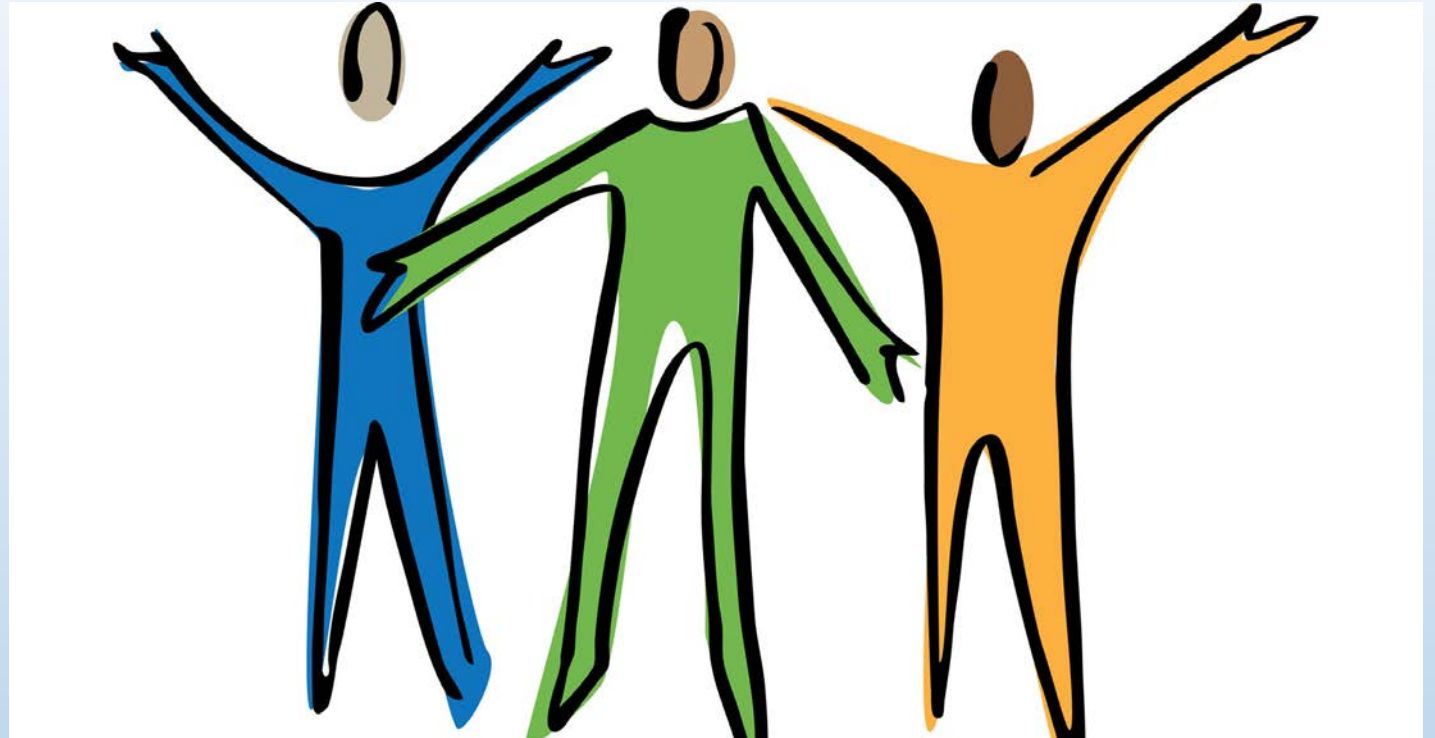


Peter on the Great Controversy

1 Peter 2: 9.

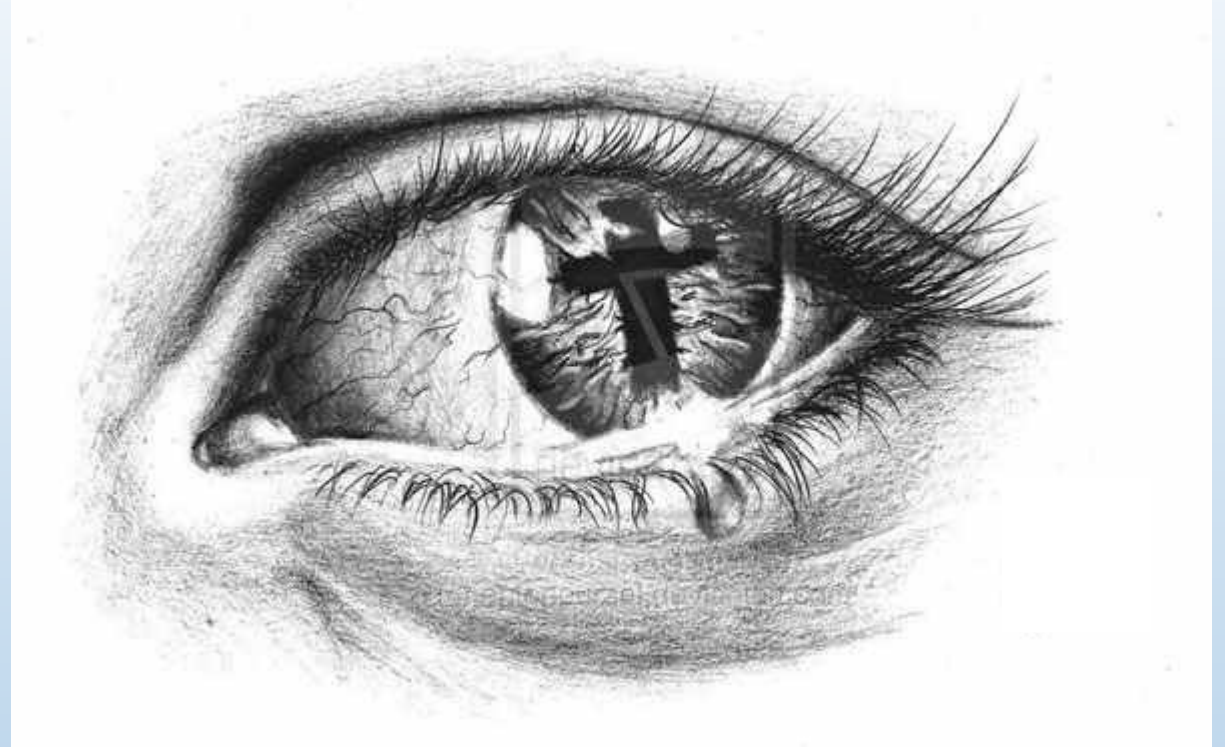


"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"
1 Peter 2: 9.



I. Introduction: IDENTITY

Knowing who we are is
essential for the
accomplishment of our mission



“Never forget what you are, for surely the world will not. Make it your strength. Then it can never be your weakness. Armour yourself in it, and it will never be used to hurt you.”
George R.R. Martin



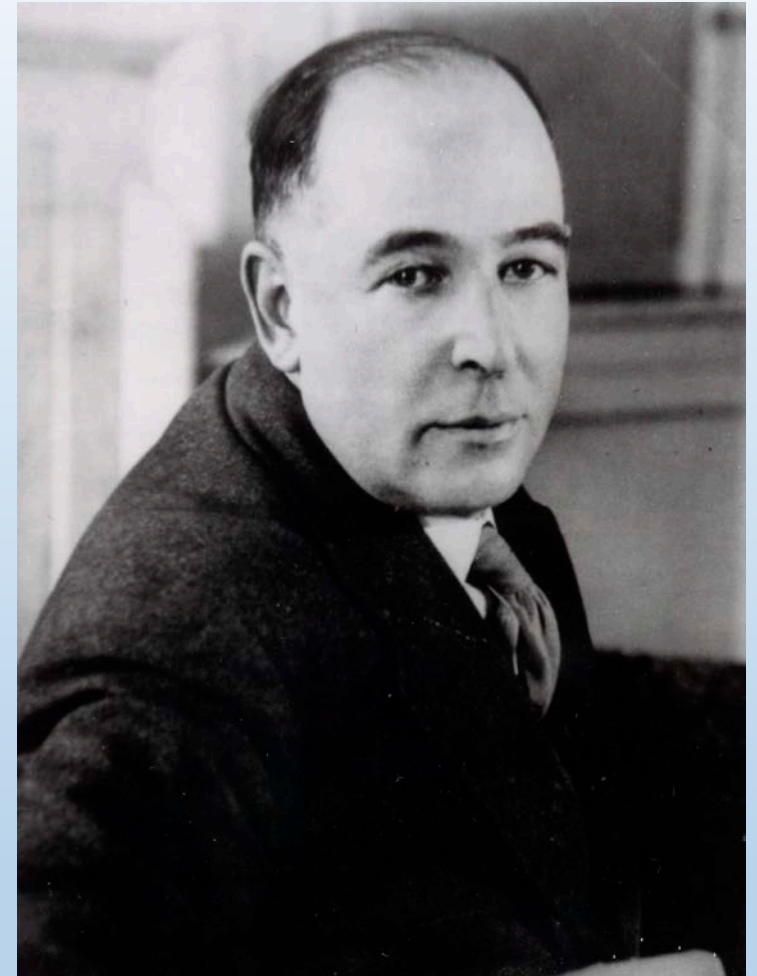
“Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation.”

Oscar Wilde



"Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favourite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end submit with every fibre of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."

C. S. Lewis



"There is no greater
discovery than seeing
God as the author of
your destiny."
Ravi Zacharias

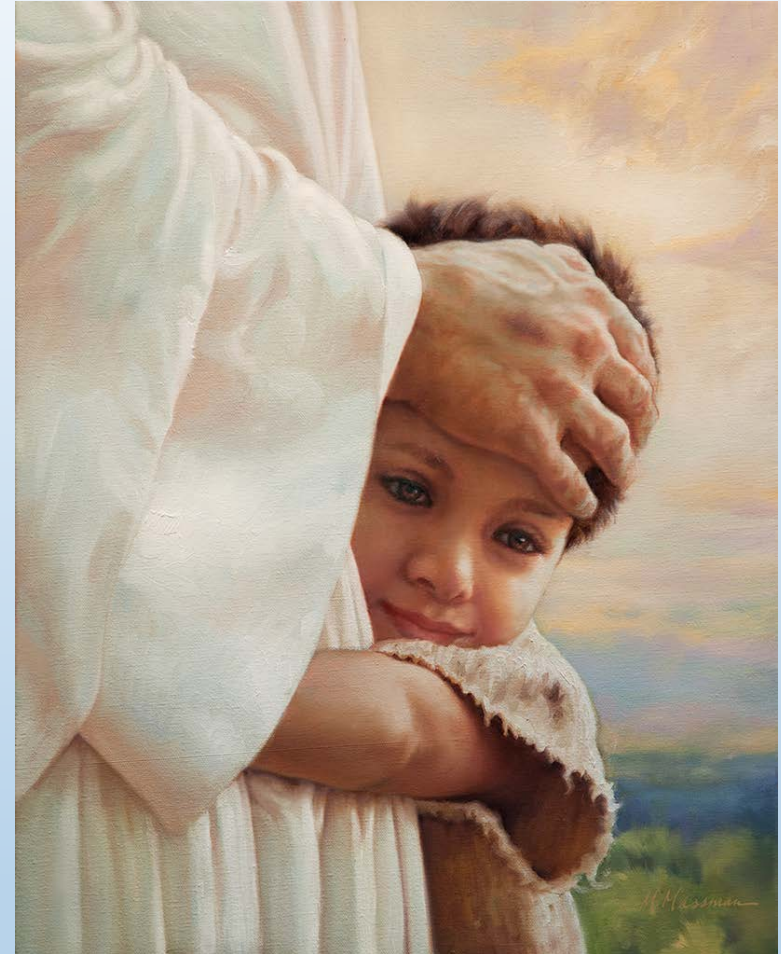


“Anyone who has
discovered who God
has made them to be
would never want to
be anyone else”
Bill Johnson



“Jesus came to announce to us that an identity based on success, popularity and power is a false identity- an illusion! Loudly and clearly he says: 'You are not what the world makes you; but you are children of God.'”

Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Here and Now: Living in the Spirit*



“We should be more interested in discovering who we may become than staying imprisoned in who we are right now.”
(DS)



II. Context



The text of Peter reminds us of our identity, after describing the importance of Jesus for our salvation. Our future is defined from our relationship with Him. Our identity is real after accepting Him as the living stone. Without Him we are nothing.



1 Peter 2: 4 – 10.

A	4	CHRIST: The Living Stone, chosen and precious
B	5a	YOU, (IDENTITY): The living stones, (in relationship with Him)
C	5b	PURPOSE: Spiritual sacrifices
A'	6 - 8	CHRIST: He is precious or stumbling block
B'	9a	YOU, (IDENTITY): Chosen generation, royal priesthood, holy nation, special people
C'	9b	PURPOSE: Proclaiming praises of Him
XX	10	CONCLUSION: New reality in Christ

III. The apostle Peter reminds us of the extraordinary vision for the ministry of all Christians: sharing the goodness of our God in heaven



1. The choice of
God is essential
for our future in
His kingdom

“You are a chosen
generation”



"A human choice is made, a free human choice, but the choice is made because God first chooses to influence the elect to make the right choice. The basis for God's choice does not rest in man but solely in the good pleasure of the divine will."

R. C. Sproul



“Before you were born, God gave you a unique mixture of spiritual gifts, passions, abilities, personality, and experiences. There’s no one like you in the entire universe because, in part, there’s no one with your unique mix of talents. It’s why your destiny is so unique. It’s your destiny. Not your mother’s, not your father’s, not your pastor’s. *It’s your destiny.*”
Rick Warren



The doctrine of election is the sum of the Gospel because of all words that can be said or heard it is the best: that God elects man; that God is for man too the One who loves in freedom. It is grounded in the knowledge of Jesus Christ because He is both the electing God and elected man in One. It is part of the doctrine of God because originally God's election of man is a predestination not merely of man but of Himself. Its function is to bear basic testimony to eternal, free and unchanging grace."

Karl Barth



2. We are all kings

"A royal priesthood"



We are rulers of the kingdom within us

“In the instruction of the youth the effect of apparently small deviations from the right should be made very plain. Let the student be taught the value of a simple, healthful diet in preventing the desire for unnatural stimulants. Let the habit of self-control be early established. Let the youth be impressed with the thought that they are to be masters, and not slaves. Of the kingdom within them God has made them rulers, and they are to exercise their Heaven-appointed kingship. When such instruction is faithfully given, the results will extend far beyond the youth themselves. Influences will reach out that will save thousands of men and women who are on the very brink of ruin.”

Ellen G. White, Education, p. 203.

“Who can comprehend the riches of the glory of this grace? Christ, that rich and pious husband, takes as a wife a needy and impious harlot, redeeming her from all her evils, and supplying her with all His good things. It is impossible now that her sins should destroy her, since they have been laid upon Christ and swallowed up in Him, and since she has in her husband Christ a righteousness which she may claim as her own, and which she can set up with confidence against all her sins, against death and hell... As Christ by His birthright has obtained these two dignities, so He imparts and communicates them to every believer in Him, under that law of matrimony of which we have spoken above, by which all that is the husband's is also the wife's. Hence all we who believe on Christ are kings and priests in Christ, as it is said: “Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” (1 Pet 2:9)

- Martin Luther, *De libertate christiana* 1520, c. 12. WA7, pg.25f),

“In the Old Testament it would have been impossible for you to be a royal priest. Because royalty came from Judah and the priestly line came from Levi. There was no such thing as a royal priest. One of the kings of Judah tried it one time, Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26). He presumed to offer incense in the temple. He presumed to take upon himself the function of a priest. God severely judged him for it. A sharp demarcation between royalty and priesthood. But the Christian priesthood is not based on the old order of Aaron, it's based on the new order of Melchizedek. And Melchizedek, Hebrews tells us, was both king of Salem — he was royalty — and he was a priest of the most high God. It is that order of priesthood that you and I belong to where all of us are priests. Not just some of us in the body are priests, but all of us are priests, royal priests unto God.”

George O. Wood

3. We are all priests

"A royal priesthood"



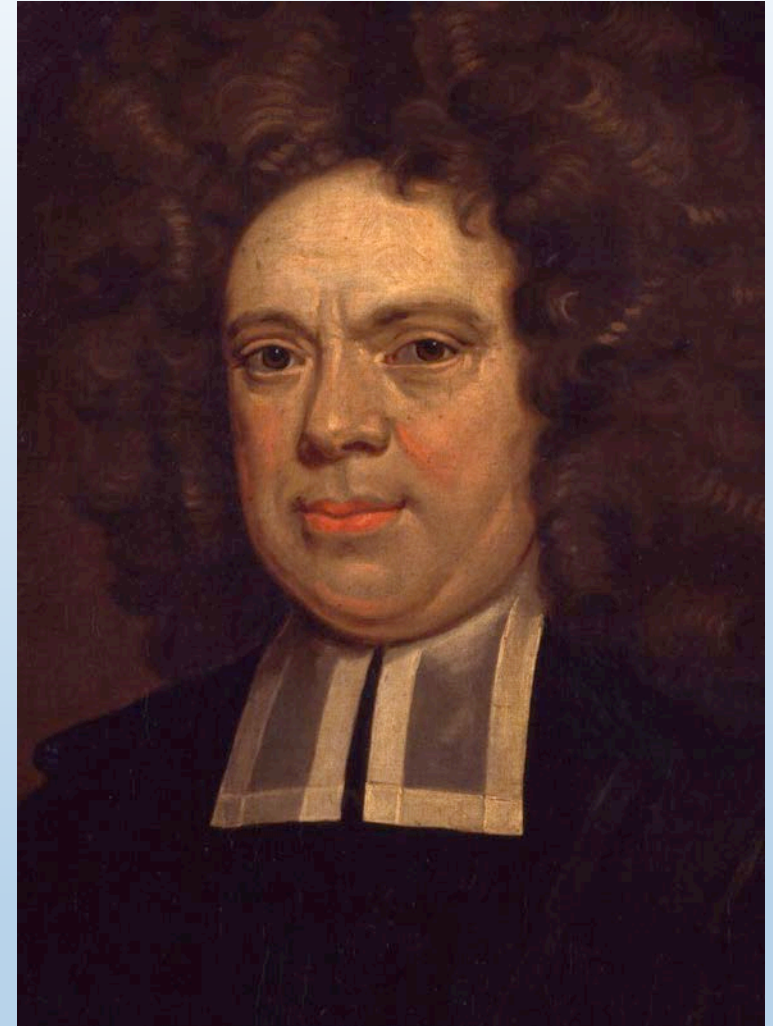
"There is in the *royal priesthood* a striking inversion of the words of Moses; for he says, 'a priestly kingdom,' but the same thing is meant. So what Peter intimated was this, 'Moses called your fathers a sacred kingdom, because the whole people enjoyed as it were a royal liberty, and from their body were chosen the priest; both dignities were therefore joined together: but not ye are royal priests, and, indeed, in a more excellent way, because ye are, each of you, consecrated in Christ, that ye may be the associates of his kingdom, and partakers of his priesthood. Though, then, the fathers had something like what you have, yet ye far excel them. For after the wall of partition has been pulled down by Christ, we are now gathered from every nation, and the Lord bestows these high titles on all whom he makes his people.'"

Martin Luther

“ROYAL PRIESTHOOD: after Exodus 19:6, LXX. Most interpreters take it as simple combination of the two ideas: “kings and priests.” Still it is more correct to regard ‘PRIESTS’ as the principal idea (cf. 1 Peter 2:3), and ‘ROYAL’ as a more precise definition... Since all the other predicates express the belonging to God, the second explanation deserves the preference, only it must be modified so far as to include in ‘royal’ not only the relation of service, but that also of belonging to and participation in the glory of the king founded thereon.”
Heinrich August Wilhelm Meyer



"All true believers are a holy priesthood; sacred to God, serviceable to others, endowed with heavenly gifts and graces. But the most spiritual sacrifices of the best in prayer and praise are not acceptable, except through Jesus Christ. Christ is the chief Corner-stone, that unites the whole number of believers into one everlasting temple."
Matthew Henry



“The priesthood of all believers includes ALL believers. If the word ALL is eliminated, it is not the universal priesthood. If anybody within the church is excluded, we are in contradiction with the inclusive message of the New Testament.”
(DS)



4. God's children
are pursuing
holiness
"A holy nation"



"The church's mission is to participate in God's own mission. Itself the fruit of God's mission of love, the church is God's agency for the salvation of men, an instrument to carry the gospel into all the world and to gather men from every nation into the one household of God, a living image of God, which reflects His fullness and sufficiency through unselfish love, service, and a holy walk of life."
Gotfried Oosterwal



“As we grow in holiness,
we grow in hatred of sin;
and God, being infinitely
holy, has an infinite hatred
of sin.”

Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit
of Holiness*



"God's holiness is not an unloving holiness, and God's love is not an unholy love. It is only by keeping these two primary moral qualities of the divine being closely related that we may rightly behold the character of God."

Thomas C. Oden, The Living God: Systemic Theology: Vol. 1, p. 98



5. We are a treasure
cherished by God
“His own special people”



"We are a special people with a special message for a special time in earth's history. As F. D. Nichol declared, "We are a tailor-made people with a tailor-made message for a morally bankrupt world!"
Gordon Collier



“From the standpoint of salvation history, the New Testament reflects a period where God's special people are comprised of those who view the death of Jesus on Calvary as an indication of the inauguration of the New Age.”

Keith A. Burton



"The election of Israel by God to be His special people was not primarily an election to salvation, though it would have resulted in that. It was an election to service (Ex. 19:5,6; Isa. 43:10, 21; 61:6). It was His intention, confirmed many times, that they should be His people forever (2 Sam. 7:23, 24). But even the original offer of the covenant at Sinai contained a plain "if" (Ex. 19:5, 6). After centuries of pleading and discipline designed to help them to accept His divine call to service from the heart, God eventually accepted their refusal (Matt. 21:43; Rom. 11:20). He now offers that privilege to any who will accept it, Jew or Gentile. Thus, to Jews as individuals the door both to service and to salvation remains open. We cannot, then, interpret either Luke 21:24 or Romans 11:25 as a renewal of the call to national service, for that has been withdrawn. Neither can we take these verses as implying a new call to salvation, for that call has always been open."

Ernest W. Marter

6. Evangelism is
proclaiming our
admiration of God
“That you may proclaim
the praises of Him”



Essentially, we are not preaching doctrine or discipline. We are not promoting restrictions as a solution for human hopelessness. We are not uplifting human institutions. Our task is to proclaim the goodness of God and to declare praises of who He is. Our main focus should be on the beauty of His character.”
(DS)



“Important as it is that all Christians should participate in the liturgical actions of the Church, and that they should regard their daily vocation as a medium through which their priesthood may be expressed, it is equally important that they should be identified with, and take an active share in, the evangelistic action of the Church also?”

Eastwood, Priesthood, 1962.



As much as many proclaim God's goodness, religion has contaminated how really good they think God is. They have a "God " who is temperamental, judgmental, picky and prickly who withholds good things from His people just for the fun of it. To work in faith with that kind of God is exhausting. You couldn't trust if stepping out in faith and obedience would take you in the direction of his promises. He just might be having a bad day and is no longer interested in whatever he might have promised in the past.

But that's not our God. He will not relent from His word. He stands by His word with all His resources to see that nothing could ever make it not come to pass. Ever. His word to us is Flourish. There's no shaking. No changing. No withholding.

Therefore, rejoice in the goodness of our good God today. Do your part. Walk confidently and uprightly and He will unfailingly and undoubtedly deliver on His word. No good thing would He withhold from you today. Or ever."

Alex Marceva

7. Christ's road is leading us out of darkness

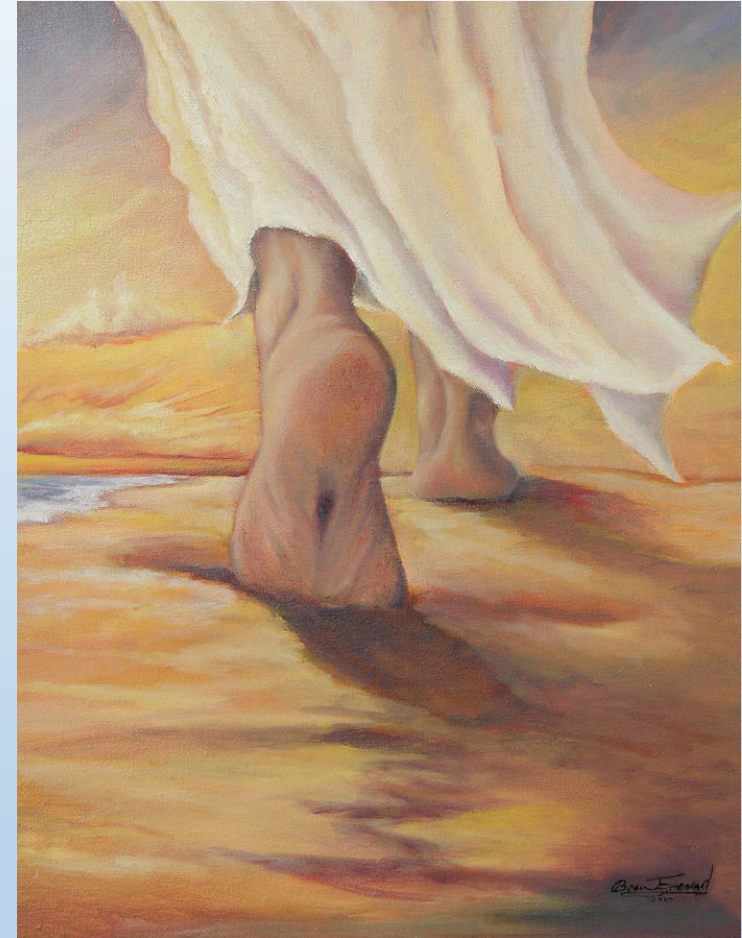
"Who called you out of
darkness"



“Loving is the only sure
road out of darkness, the
only serum known that
cures self-centeredness.”
Roger M’Ckuen



“Follow Jesus. He is the only one able to open your spiritual eyes to see how dark your situation is, and He is the best one to lead you out of darkness.”
(DS)



"If we are taught by God in affliction we are blessed. When God teaches, he applies his instruction to the heart. He commands light to shine out of darkness (2 Corinthians 4:6). The Holy Spirit brings divine truths in such a clear and convincing light that the soul sits down fully satisfied."

Thomas Case

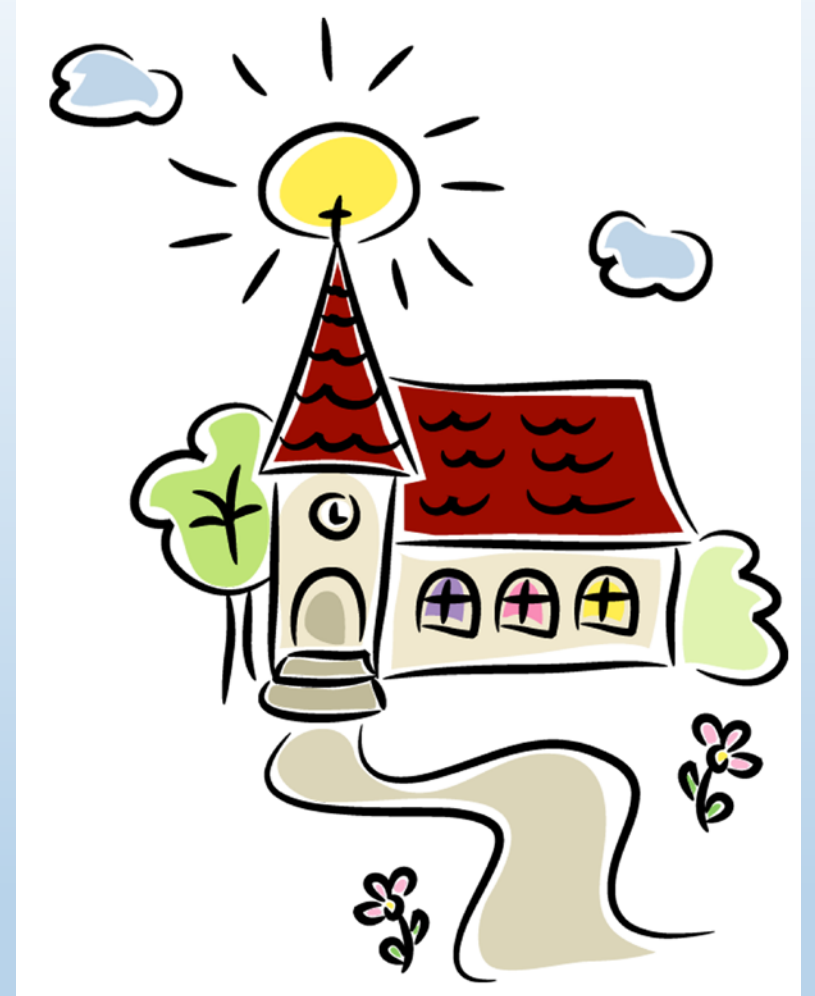


8. God is the source of the marvelous light

“Into His marvelous light”



The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory."
Ellen G. White, The Acts of the Apostles, p. 9.



“It is not the will of God that we should be gloomy or impatient, nor that we should be light and trifling. It is Satan’s studied plan to push persons from one extreme to the other. As children of the light, God would have us cultivate a cheerful, happy spirit, that we may show forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Ellen G. White, *Adventist Home*, p. 432.



"We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining - they just shine."
Dwight L. Moody



“Human light is not
enough in a world so dark.
We need Jesus, the Light
of the world to chase
darkness from our heart.”
(DS)



V. Conclusion



"The apostle Peter declares,
"Ye are a chosen generation,
a royal priesthood, an holy
nation, a peculiar people." 1
Peter 2:9. We are required by
God to preserve every power
in the best possible condition,
that we may render
acceptable service to our
Creator."

Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and
Prophets, p. 362.



"The doctrine of the priesthood of all believers is a sequel to the doctrine of justification by grace alone through faith alone. Those who are clothed in the perfect righteousness of God are welcome in the presence of God. No Christian needs a pontiff, meaning a bridge builder, because Jesus Christ alone is the way to the Father."
P.G. Mathew



"In spite of its affirmation of the priesthood of all believers, there is perhaps no function which Protestantism has so much neglected. Not only have Protestant laymen not assumed the priestly role, but until recently even the clergy have shunned it. A major task for Protestant churches today, not merely the clergy but the whole church, is to understand and accept their priesthood."

E. Olenn Hinson, *The Church: Design for Survival* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1967), p. 95.



Peter on the Great Controversy

1 Peter 2: 9.

