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Thursday, April 16, 2020 – Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver

EBC Update



Online Giving Now Available!

Offerings to the church can now be made by Interac e-transfer through online banking. To do so:

- Login to your online bank account at your financial institution.
- Find the Interac e-transfer tab. Follow the steps as outlined there.
- Add Ebenezer as a new e-transfer recipient with the e-mail EbenezerTithes@shaw.ca
- Make up a “security question” and “secret answer.”
- In the memo section, you may designate to “General” or “Easter.”
- Send a separate e-mail to EbenezerTithes@shaw.ca with the “secret answer” to your “security question.” Please also include your full name including middle initial, address, and donation amount. This will allow us to record your donation for income tax receipt purposes.
- We will keep your “secret answer” for the next time you send an e-transfer using the same “security question.” Please contact Graham Gertz, our Treasurer, for further information.

A Special People

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:9–10)

The need to feel loved and valued is one of the most pressing of all. And the more difficult one’s circumstances, the more urgent it becomes. That’s why it’s so important to grasp the truth of 1 Peter 2:9–10, especially at times like this.

1 Peter was originally written to the hard-pressed churches of first century Asia Minor. The letter’s main purpose, according to 5:12, was to encourage Peter’s readers to “stand fast” in God’s grace despite all the temptations and very real persecutions that they faced from a pagan environment and a hostile Roman government.

But the apostle does not urge his readers to hide or withdraw from the world. Instead, he encourages them to hang in there and to stay true to Christ. He also reminds them of just how precious they are to God, which is why these verses are so full of affirmation, as Peter addresses three timeless truths that can still inspire us all.

First, the apostle calls his readers—and so everyone who comes to faith in Christ, “a chosen people.” He specifies in verses 9–10 that we are “a people belonging to God.” “Once you were not a people,” he continues, “but now you are the people of God.”

That’s such an uplifting thought, because it means that our sense of security and self-esteem need never depend on the opinions of others or on our particular circumstances. It does not have to come and go, like the wind, according to how we

feel. It can rest, instead, on the sure and certain knowledge that God has chosen us in Christ to belong to God now and forever, and that God has rescued and forgiven us for all our past mistakes. So we are now in a very special relationship with God, which no-one can ever take from us.

As Christians, we have no need to pump ourselves up with positive thinking, because we can hear direct words of love and affirmation from God. And when we take them to heart, when we realize just how much God loves and cares for us deep down inside, they can totally change our lives.

Second, Peter calls his readers “a holy nation.” He is not implying, of course, that Christians are perfect, or that we no longer sin— at least this side of eternity. He is saying, I think, that we are “holy” in the sense that we have been set apart, or dedicated to God, and we have become God’s own.

What is more, Christ has died for us to make us holy. And we are part of a wonderful “nation” which is not defined by geographical boundaries, like Canada, but by a worldwide community of people who know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Finally, we are also, according to verse 9, “a royal priesthood.” And when Peter describes everyday Christians, like his readers, as a “priesthood,” he is clearly appealing to a tradition that all God’s people are God’s priests.

We are called to serve God and others. Not only so, but by his use of the word “royal,” the apostle is stressing that this shared priesthood, which is our common calling, is the most exalted form of all.

So we are “a chosen people,” “a holy nation” and “a royal priesthood.” That’s what 1 Peter 2:9–10 tells us. And especially during tough times like these, it’s surely vital that we do not lose sight of these marvellous truths.



For as God’s “special people,” verse 9 reminds us that God has also given us a very special purpose. We are to “declare the praises of him who called [us] out of darkness into his wonderful light.” We are to be living, loving witnesses, in word and deed, to all that Christ has done for us.

That’s not always easy. Yet the wonderful truth of 1 Peter 2 is that we have all the support we need from the living God. We can meet all that life may throw at us, confident that God has chosen us, God loves us, and God will watch over us for all eternity.

Pastor John Oakes



Prayer Needs

- Our sick and shut-ins
- Government leaders
- Doctors, nurses and care workers, especially those from our own community
- Our online services
- All who are anxious, depressed or lonely
- The complete defeat of the COVID-19 virus

Staying in Touch

This newsletter is intended to be a source of community news and devotional materials. Please let Pastor John know of any updates, content ideas, or feedback.

- We have organized a Zoom Bible Study and Prayer Meeting for Friday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m. To join this meeting, please go to this link on your computer: xxxxxxxxxx. The meeting ID is: xxx xxxx xxxx.
- Our Prayer Chain remains fully functional. Confidential prayer requests can be made by phone or email to Sharon Iseli or Freda Ross.
- Our first four online services are now available at this [link](#) on [Youtube](#), which can also be accessed through our [Facebook page](#) and our [church website](#). The next will be available Sunday, April 19, from 10:30 a.m.
- Pastor John can be reached in the event of an emergency at any time on 604-779-2356. His email is seniorpastor@rockofhelp.com.