

Subj: THE PRICE OF BEING A CHOSEN PEOPLE.

Text: 1 Pet. 2:9

(Amplified N.T.) "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, God's own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

I am aware that this portion of scriptures speak primarily of the Hebrew Nation, but I also believe that we are a chosen race, a dedicated nation, selected to show forth the works of God, in this our day.

The Blessings of America are not ours because of an accident. The terrible tribulations and bloody battle-fields that were a part of the birth pangs of this nation ~~almost~~ two centuries ago prompted Thomas Paine to say, "These are the times that try men's souls."

Now <sup>many</sup> ~~ten~~ generations removed from the events of that era, we again find ourselves confronted by complex conditions that confuse and demoralize us.

Therefore, it seems especially appropriate in this Thanksgiving Season to consider some of the factors that have preserved this nation for ~~almost~~ two hundred years, and offer thanks to God for our country.

## I- THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS

The conviction that the Hebrews were a chosen people is expressed on nearly every page of the Old Testament. The Jewish race had been called out by God for a particular service in relation to humanity, and for that service they were endowed with an extraordinary sense of God; that marked the Jewish people from other nationalities.

God spoke these words concerning them:  
(Deut. 7:6) "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."

Think of it, a nation, politically un-important, whose national history was constantly checked with adversity; a nation which at times had been in bondage of slavery; a nation which had been utterly destroyed and its people transported to foreign lands by conquering armies; ~~and~~ <sup>one</sup> of the weakest, humblest nations of the ancient world. And yet as a people they were constantly summonesed to live

remembering that they were God's chosen people.

This conviction that they were God's chosen people did not grant unto them special religious or temporal favors. They were God's chosen people but they were people who had to live in the midst of events exactly comparable with those of other nations.

They realized that what prosperity had come to them, was not because of their ability, but was given of God.

B- Note What This Insignificant Chosen People did.

Their history is marked by no great conquests; they left behind them no great work of art, but they came upon a unique experience and insight with God.

Their experiences centered around God the Creator of all life. Their deepest insights were into His character and purpose and what He desires of ~~man~~<sup>one</sup>. Their insights and experiences, gathered together, comprise a book - THE BIBLE --surpassing in importance the greatest work of the Greeks, and the Romans.

A people scattered for centuries among all nations, without a government, flag, or country, yet they have never lost their identity, their religion; or national peculiarities and characteristics. AND NOW TODAY, the Spot Light of this world is upon them.

II- The Idea of Being a Chosen People is not Confined only to the Hebrew people.

We as a Nation have this same conviction. We think of ourselves as a chosen people for we call this "God's Country", the land of the Free.

With all the criticism that has been thrown at the Church, and our Nation, we are still the Religious Leaders of the world, and we must preserve christianity.

I am afraid that some people feel that to be a Chosen People, is to be a people with special priviledges, positions, power, etc. living in God's Country, with God as an Absentee Owner, whom we never expect to see, and to whom we never expect to be asked to render an account.

### III- THANKSGIVING DAY!

No holiday in all our calendar is comparable to Thanksgiving. It celebrates no battle, no bank or business holiday, no political revolution. But a day set aside to thank God for his blessings.

Thanksgiving Season is a wonderful time to re-affirm our conviction as being God's Chosen People. ~~I believe we are a Chosen people!~~ Not chosen by events, but by the Divine Hand of God.

We are a people who have been able to bring into being a new pattern of life out of the amazing diversities which make up the American nation. We represent literally the peoples of all the world, and here we dwell together with our differences, but without the violence of war and strife which mark the relations between the nations from which we have come.

### IV- There is Always a Price for being a Chosen People.

(Titus 2:14) "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

A peculiar people does not mean an odd people, but a separated, and a dedicated people. Dedicated to the cause for which We Have been called.

The word Zealous- means eager and enthusiastic about the work of God.

### Facts to Face:

We are a blessed people in America today. While the USA has only 6% of the World's population, we consume 16% of the World's food. While 9% of the earth's population speak English, yet 94% of all Ordained Ministers are dedicated to preach to that 9%. This leaves the other 6% of earth's ministers to preach to the other 91% of earth's people.

We live in the light of the Gospel.

A TELEGRAM can be sent around the world in 52.6 seconds (less than a minute) and yet there are about 1 Billion, 400 Millions people who have never heard the Story of Jesus Christ.

Every minute, 110 people die that has never heard the Story of Jesus.

(Luke 12:48) "For everyone to whom much is given, of him, much shall be required."

(James 1:27) "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Every Christian has been called of God for a particular service in relation to humanity, and to that service WE MUST BE DEDICATED.

It is a privilege to receive a sacred trust, and I pray that we shall never betray that trust which our Heavenly Father has placed in His Chosen People.

And only when we remember who we are, and only when we act and live under God's purpose, can we speak in truth about being a Chosen People.

May God's Blessings continue to rest upon America, Our Country, and may we meet the challenge of the Day.

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