

May 14, 2017

Brand New

1 PETER 2:9-10, REVELATION 11:15-19

We must realize who we are, the depth of our identity in Christ. Joy for us is operating out of WHO we are in the Lord, rather than by what we DO to earn some standing with God. Peter's letter was a circular letter, written to N. Asia Minor. It was not directed to a single group, but to scattered people—Jews, Gentiles, slave, and free. He was helping them (and us) see they were connected. You are a people! A chosen, brand-new race. We are a new nation—sacred to the Lord! A people governed directly by the King of kings—just as we were intended. We are of upmost value to the Master. We belong to Him!

What we are dealing with is several different angles of vision on the one single great reality: that through the awful turmoil and trouble of the world, God is establishing through Jesus a people who, following the Lamb, are to bear witness to God's kingdom through their own suffering, through which the world will be brought to repentance and faith, so ultimately God will be king over all. This is not about a private spirituality in the present, or an escapist 'salvation' in the future. This is about the living God confronting the powers of the world with the news that He is now in charge, and the mode of His rule is that which was established by 'His Messiah', the Lamb - N.T. Wright (2011).

People whom the Jews called fuel for the fires of hell had become the people belonging to God. The church is a community of grace. Only by God's great and gracious love for us do we exist as a community of faith. Because we have received mercy and grace without limit there must be a longing to share it with others - Roger Hahn (2016).

Next week: *Surprise the World, Living 'Questionable Lives'*

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THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

Culture devalues motherhood, marriage, Christianity.

Choose to hear the Word of the Lord!

We are brand new in Jesus!

No longer are we subject to the whims of people.

We are a new, collective nation, a chosen race.

The book of Revelation reveals Jesus.

Death is finally put to death.

No one will ever encroach on Christ's rule.

Vs. 17- God is now described as Who was and is

Because the future has arrived in the present!

The 'is to come' (Rev. 1:3) has become reality.

Be - who you are - in the Lord! God's people.

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