

“1 Peter 2:4-5 – Part 4”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a five-part series about 1 Peter 2:4-5 before the Day of Trumpets. From time to time through the years, I had spoken about 1 Peter 2:4-5 by mainly concentrating upon three concepts mentioned there. (Those three concepts will be covered in this series as Parts 3, 4 and 5. But Parts 1 and 2 include additional information added to this series.).

- Part 1 – “Christ was chosen by God to be a living stone.”
- Part 2 – “You are to be a living stone.”
- Part 3 – “You are being built up as a spiritual house.”
- Part 4 – “You are being built up as a holy priesthood.”
- Part 5 – “You are to offer spiritual sacrifices – acceptable to God.”

Holy priesthood

This article will focus upon part 4—“You are being built up as a holy priesthood.”

- 1 Peter 2:5—“You . . . are being built up . . . a holy priesthood.”

Aaron and sons were priests

- Exodus 28:1—Aaron and his sons were chosen by the Lord to minister to the Lord as priests.
- Leviticus 16:2—The Lord said to Moses: “Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil (before the mercy seat which is on the ark) lest he die – for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.”
- Numbers 18:4—“They [your sons] shall be joined with you and attend to the needs of the tabernacle of meeting for all the work of the tabernacle. But an outsider shall not come near you.”
- Numbers 18:5—“And you shall attend to the duties of the sanctuary and the duties of the altar, that there may be no more wrath on the children of Israel.”
- Numbers 18:6—“Behold, I Myself have taken your brethren (the Levites) from among the children of Israel. They are a gift to you, given by the Lord, to do the work of the tabernacle of meeting.”
- Numbers 18:7—“Therefore you and your sons with you shall attend to your priesthood for everything at the altar and behind the veil, and you shall serve. I give your priesthood to you as a gift for service, but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death.”

Christ is High Priest

The book of Hebrews mentions the phrase “the order of Melchizedek” (found in Psalm 110:4) numerous times. (Hebrews 5:6; Hebrews 5:10; Hebrews 6:20; Hebrews 7:11; Hebrews 7:17 and Hebrews 7:21.)

- Hebrews 2:17—Christ had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest.
- Hebrews 2:18—Since He Himself has suffered (being tempted), He is able to aid those who are tempted.
- Hebrews 3:1—Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.
- Hebrews 4:14—Since we have a great High Priest (who has passed through the heavens), let us hold fast our confession.
- Hebrews 4:15-16—Since we have a High Priest who was tempted in all points without sin, He can sympathize with us—and we should go boldly before the throne of God.
- Hebrews 7:11—“If perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise?”
- Hebrews 7:12—Since the priesthood changed, there was a change in the law. (What was the change?)
- Hebrews 7:13—The priesthood was no longer tied to a physical family.
- Hebrews 7:14—It is obvious that our Lord arose from Judah (a tribe of which Moses did not connect to the priesthood).
- Hebrews 8:1-2—“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: ‘We have such a High Priest (who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven) – a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected.’”

Saints are called priests

- Revelation 1:5-6—John wrote: “To Him [Jesus Christ] who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father . . . be glory and dominion forever and ever: Amen.”
- Revelation 5:9-10—They sang a new song about the Lamb: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals; for You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation; and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

Verse about a “teaching” priest

- 2 Chronicles 15:4—“For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law.”

True God

- 1 Corinthians 15:24–The Son of God will deliver the kingdom to God the Father – after He puts an end to all rule, authority and power.
- 1 Corinthians 15:28–When all things are made subject to the Son of God, then He Himself will also be subject to the Father (who put all things under the Son) – that “God may be all in all.”

Teaching priest

- Hebrews 5:12-13–Although some Christians ought to be able to teach, they need someone to teach them (again) about the first principles of the oracles of God – because they are babes in the word of righteousness.
- Hebrews 5:14–Solid food belongs to those who are mature – that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

The Biblical law

- Matthew 5:17-20–Christ said: “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

There is much misunderstanding about the Law of God.

- Some religious people seek to do away with the Law of God.
- Yet, other religious people (like the Pharisees in Matthew 23:13-30) apply principles of the Law in an unholy and destructive manner.

It is important to understand how God made changes in the New Covenant. (It is important to understand why God made changes in the New Covenant.)

- Acts 15:19–At the Jerusalem conference about circumcision, James said: “I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God [with the requirement of circumcision].”

(At other places in the Bible, Paul talked about being kind toward people who were not accepting your level of understanding. See 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 and 1 Corinthians 10:27-33.)

Let’s watch James apply that principle in the book of Acts.

- Acts 21:18-19–James greeted Paul.
- Acts 21:20-21–James mentioned to Paul that some people were troubled by what Paul was teaching – that he taught people “ought not to circumcise their children, nor to walk according to the customs.”

What was James suggestion?

- Acts 21:22-24–James suggested that Paul participate in a temple procedure of helping four men to partake of the Nazarite vow.

Is the Nazarite vow required today? Was it technically even required then (after Matthew 27:51)?

The Bible certainly teaches about the importance of law (Romans 6:1-2).

But the children of God are expected to understand the difference between God's important expectations and some valuable customs.