

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

Schedule Of Services:

Lord's Day:	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Our Elders:

**Johnie Dodds
Harry Elliott
Austin Willis**

Our Deacons:

**Danny Carpenter
Wayne Hulme
Tommy Sawyers**

Our Preacher: **T. Sean Sullivan**

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

**OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37**

**BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21**

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

God's Special People: Royal Priests

Introduction:

God has chosen those "in Christ" to be His own special people (Ephesians 1:3-10) In this relationship: We have exclusive privileges of spiritual blessings (v.3). We have the opportunity of forgiveness (vs.4, 7). We have been adopted as sons (children) (v.5).

Never before has God designed and allowed such immediate access to Himself; than under the New Covenant. We have a wonderful blessing of being royal priests in the kingdom. The connection of communication with God is an essential part of our priesthood. In our lesson let's consider: The special nature of a royal priest. What being a priest entails and the importance of this opportunity.

Special Nature of a Royal Priest:

Jesus, the Christ, is both Priest and King—in fact He is High Priest. The book of Hebrews declares Jesus as Priest in the likeness of Melchizedek's priesthood (Hebrews 5:6, 10, 6:20, 7:1, 10, 11, 15, 17, and 21). Melchizedek was both a priest (of God) and a king (of Salem). He was appointed by God to that role and he was unique in his office (no others like him, before him, or after). In a similar way Jesus, in His priesthood is like Mel-

Vol. Six Issue Six (D) June 27, 2010

chizedek. Jesus is the High Priest (Hebrews 4:15) and King (Revelation 17:14). He was appointed by God to the role and He is unique in His office (no other like Christ, before Him, or after).

We alone have the right to serve our Great King and High Priest—as priests. Our “royal” capacity is that we serve the King of kings (Hebrews 4:15-16). Our servitude is to the King—we are not kings ourselves, there is only one king in the kingdom, we have the honor of being the King’s servants. This opportunity presents us with blessed privileges.

What Being a Priest Entails:

The priests under the Old Covenant were set apart and special. Exodus 28:41 *“You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests.”* Out of all the people, these ones were select and separate in a special place—with special responsibilities and opportunities.

Today, all Christians are priests, we are to be: consecrated and sanctified: Set apart from our own sins (1 Corinthians 6:11). Set apart from the world and its ways (Colossians 1:13). We must respect our new place in life and its new hope, and therefore walk in such a way as to maintain it. We need to walk in the newness of life (Romans 6:4). We need to walk in the Spirit’s instructions (Galatians 5:22-25). We need to walk in the good works of God (Ephesians 2:10). We need to walk in the light (John 8:12; 1 John 1:7)

The Importance of this Opportunity

Under the Old Law the people would go to the priest in order to have him represent them to God. It was the priest who would do things on other’s behalf (Leviticus 5:5-10). There was no direct relationship with the people to God—all sacrifices went through a priest. Today we no longer need an earthly office of this capacity—we all have direct access to the Father. We can pray to Him in seeking to: Praise Him directly (Matthew 6: 9; Hebrews 13:15). We can petition Him directly (Matthew 6:9-13; John 14:12-14; 1 Peter 5:7). We can, as priests, directly seek His forgiveness (1 John

1:9).

Conclusion:

We have a greater, more direct relationship with God as His special people—better than any other time in the history of mankind. We are directly involved with our Creator God. As Christians, we are all priests—each of us can carry our own burdens, cares, and joys to the Father. This is a blessed privilege, reserved for those in Christ. Do you desire to be part of God’s special people? In the chosen generation, part of the holy nation, and among His royal priests? The opportunity to obey is yours today.
