

PERSONAL NOTES

"For we are His workmanship..." Eph. 2:10

"...to be conformed to the image of His Son..." Rom. 8:28-29

God is working not to take us, but **TO MAKE US!**

Lecture 2: Made Kings and Priests unto God

The Great Purpose of Redemption

*"And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him 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, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." Rev. 1:5-6, NKJV.*

*"...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." Rev. 5:9-10, NKJV.*

There is something deeply significant hidden within these words. The Book of Revelation is not merely a book of symbols, judgments, or future events, it is the **unveiling of Jesus Christ** and His eternal purpose in a people. Everything revealed therein moves toward one divine intention: that God should make a people into kings and priests unto Himself.

Notice carefully: the emphasis is not merely on what these people can do, but on what they have **become**.

The unveiling of the sons of God is not the revelation of extraordinary individuals possessing supernatural abilities. It is the revelation of mature believers in whom the nature of Christ has been formed. God's purpose is not simply to improve man, but to **transform** him. He is not chiefly occupied with constructing heavenly mansions somewhere beyond the stars; He is concerned with **building Christ** into human lives.

Redemption, therefore, is not primarily about where we are going, but about what we are becoming.

Swimming against the current of Religion

The great tragedy of much modern Christianity is that it has exchanged becoming for **escaping**. The message of growing up into Christ has, in many places, been replaced with a message centered almost entirely around heaven and hell. As a result, many believers have become more occupied with **departure** than **transformation**. But Christ did not merely die to secure a destination, He died to produce a people in His **image**.

We must ask ourselves honestly: Are we floating downstream with the comfortable doctrines of religious tradition, or are we swimming upstream toward the living Christ?

"Do you not know and understand that you, the church, are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells permanently in you, collectively and individually?" 1 Cor. 3:16, AMP.

The eternal desire of God has never been satisfied merely with occasional visitation or outward worship. From the beginning, His purpose was far deeper than establishing sacred places built by human hands. He longed for a **dwelling place** alive with His own Presence, a **people** in whom He could live, move, and reveal Himself. We were not created simply to enter His *house* from time to time, but to become His **habitation** in the earth. This is the wonder of redemption: that the Almighty chooses not merely to walk among His people, but to dwell **within** them, shaping them into a living temple through which His nature, glory, and love may be made known to the world.

Power to Become Sons

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” John 1:12, KJV.

The Greek understanding behind this “*power*” is profoundly important.

The Greek word is “*Dunamis*.”

It denotes:

- inherent power
- divine ability
- mighty works
- strength proceeding from an indwelling nature

This is not borrowed strength, but **life** flowing from **within**. God does not merely save men; He empowers them to become.

When the Gospel of Christ, the glorious proclamation of His living Lordship and present reign within His people, was gradually reduced to a message concerned almost entirely with escaping hell and reaching heaven, the Church began to lose much of her spiritual authority and transforming power. The early believers did not merely preach a future destination; they proclaimed a **risen King**, alive and active **within** His people. Christ was not distant to them, He was vital, radiant, and reigning in their midst. But when the focus shifted from the indwelling life of Christ to a **religion** centered primarily upon fear, reward, and outward doctrine, the Church slowly exchanged living reality for religious form, and the power of His manifest Presence became obscured beneath tradition and routine.

Note: Sons in Scripture speak not merely of relationship, but of maturity. Sons are **mature saints**, those in whom Christ has come to fuller expression. The Father’s intention is not simply to gather children around His throne, but to mature sons capable of bearing His nature, authority, and glory.

PERSONAL NOTES

When passionate love for the living Lord slowly gave way to cold religiosity, something precious was lost within the Church. The vibrant wonder of Christ’s present Presence became overshadowed by formal gatherings, rigid systems of belief, and the endless divisions of men. What had once been a living fellowship with the risen Christ gradually hardened into outward religion, where structure often replaced intimacy and doctrine replaced devotion.

And in losing the **simplicity** of loving **Him above all** else, the Church also diminished her greatest testimony, the living Witness of Christ revealed through **transformed** lives.

“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall BE My son.” Rev. 21:7, KJV.

PERSONAL NOTES

Christ must remain central and supreme, not a charismatic personality, not a human vision, not an impressive program, nor even magnificent buildings erected in His Name.

The tragedy of much modern religion is that it has often become personality-driven and system-orientated, drawing men to movements, platforms, and human ambition rather than to the living Christ Himself. A gospel built upon celebrity, entertainment, or outward success may gather crowds, but it cannot truly satisfy the deep hunger of the human soul, nor can it transform the world.

Religion has, in many places, lost its credibility because people have grown weary of words without life and structures without the manifest Presence of God.

This generation does not merely need better programs, it longs, often unknowingly, for an authentic revelation of Jesus Christ living and reigning within His people.

When Religion replaced Relationship

When the Gospel of the Kingdom, the living reality of Christ reigning within and among His people, was overshadowed by religious systems and intellectual tradition, doctrine gradually took the place of the **Living Christ** Himself.

The attention of many became fixed upon a distant heaven and future escape, while the glorious mystery of Christ dwelling within His people was neglected. Instead of growing in conscious union with His present Presence, the Church often settled for beliefs about Him rather than **communion** with Him, and in doing so lost sight of the wonder that the Kingdom of God had already begun within the hearts of men.

Word study:

"Parousia" = Presence

"Apokalypsis" = Unveiling or manifestation

"Apousia" = Absence

Though Christ remained present through the Holy Spirit, much of Christianity lived as though He were absent. Relationship gave way to ritual; intimacy was replaced with systems; growth in Christ was exchanged for religious maintenance.

Yet Jesus never promised absence.

"I will not leave you as orphans..." John 14:18, NKJV.

"... Christ lives in me..." Gal. 2:20, NKJV.

The Gospel is not primarily about going somewhere one day, it is about **Christ being formed within us now.**

The Third Day and the Seventh Day

We are living in what Scripture prophetically calls:

- the Third Day from Christ's resurrection
- and the Seventh Day from Adam

These speak of:

- resurrection life
- maturity
- rest
- manifestation

"After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up..." Hos. 6:2-3

At the close of the sixth day, God had a man in His image entering His rest (Gen. 1:26-31). Likewise now, God is preparing a mature people to enter the fullness of His Kingdom rest.

The Day of the Lord is not merely about events, it is about **manifestation**.

Not doing, but Becoming

In this hour, heaven's emphasis is not primarily upon activity, but upon formation.

We are not occupied merely with what we can accomplish for God, but with what He is making of us for His eternal purpose.

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9, NKJV.

The Kingdom life always follows this pattern:

- When Christ the Light shines within us, we become light to the world (John 8:12; Matt. 5:14-16).
- When we feed upon the Bread of Life, we become bread for others (John 6:48-58).
- When we drink of Living Water, rivers begin to flow from within us (John 7:37-39).
- When Christ becomes our righteousness, we become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21).
- When His glory replaces our glory, we become carriers of His manifested nature.

This is why Scripture declares:

"As He is, so are we in this world." 1 John 4:17

Christianity is not imitation; it is participation in His life.

The Great Hope of Sonship

What a marvelous hope this is! God is making a people into something eternal. *"You have made us kings and priests."* Believers are not merely going somewhere, they are becoming somebody in Christ.

The Church is called to become:

- the witness of Christ in the earth
- the dwelling place of God
- the expression of His Kingdom
- the revelation of His glory

PERSONAL NOTES

When a child is born, hunger awakens naturally within it. The mother does not manufacture this desire; she simply nourishes what life itself has already created.

So it is in the spirit of man. True spiritual hunger is not produced by emotional persuasion, religious pressure, or human effort. It is a divine stirring, a holy longing awakened by God Himself deep within the heart. No man can impart it, for it originates in the call of the Spirit drawing us toward the living Christ.

Our part is not to fabricate desire, but to turn toward Him in humility and ask Him to awaken our hearts. And as we respond to His drawing, He not only creates that hunger within us, but enlarges it, until nothing less than His Presence can satisfy the soul.

PERSONAL NOTES

The Father is not searching for spectators of His Kingdom, but participants, sons and daughters through whom His glory may shine into a darkened world.

As Christ increases within us, His reign extends through us, until His light touches homes, cities, and nations. For the Kingdom of God does not advance first through systems or structures, but through transformed lives wholly surrendered to the King.

The question stands quietly, yet powerfully, before every human soul: will we simply drift with the current of this world and the complacency of empty religion, allowing ourselves to be carried wherever the stream of popular opinion flows, or will we respond to the deeper call of God and turn upstream toward the Source of Life Himself? Driftwood requires no decision, no courage, no surrender, it merely follows the pull of the current. But those who hunger for truth, who long to know Christ beyond mere form and tradition, must choose another path. They must swim against the tide, pressing toward the living God with hearts fully yielded to Him. This is why the Lord says, *"I have set before you life and death... therefore choose life"* (Deut. 30:19-20). The **Kingdom life** is always a **choice**, a continual turning toward Christ, the River of Life from whom all true life flows.

Summary

God's eternal purpose is not merely to save people from judgment, but to form within them the image and nature of Christ. Redemption is not centered upon escape, but **transformation**. Through Christ, believers are being made kings and priests unto God, a mature company capable of expressing His life, authority, and glory in the earth. The Church lost much of her spiritual impact when the Gospel of the Kingdom was replaced with a message focused primarily upon heaven and hell. **Relationship** gave way to **religion**, and doctrine often replaced living fellowship with Christ. Yet the true Gospel reveals a present, indwelling Christ who empowers His people to become sons through the power of His own life within them.

In this **Day of the Lord**, God is calling His people beyond childish Christianity into spiritual **maturity**. The emphasis of heaven is no longer merely upon doing, but upon becoming. As Christ is formed within us, His light, life, righteousness, peace, and glory begin to flow through us into the world. Believers are not simply preparing to go somewhere one day; they are being prepared to reveal **Someone now**. The Kingdom advances through transformed lives, through men and women who have yielded fully to the reign of Christ within them.

To choose life is to **choose Christ daily**, not merely as Savior, but as Lord, King, and indwelling Life. It is to allow His Spirit to shape our thoughts, govern our desires, and transform our character until His nature becomes visible within us. The narrow path of the Kingdom has never been crowded, for it calls men and women away from the comfort of outward religion into the costly beauty of true fellowship with God. Yet those who walk this way discover that what seemed like loss becomes immeasurable gain, for in yielding themselves to Him they find the very life for which they were created.

And so the call of the Spirit continues to echo through this present hour: *"Come higher."* Come beyond complacency, beyond merely knowing about God, and into living union with Him.

Questions

1. What is God's purpose in redemption?

2. What does Revelation reveal God is making His people?

3. What is more important than where we are going?

4. What does the Greek word "*Dunamis*" mean?

5. What are "*sons*" in Scripture?

6. What replaced relationship in much of the Church?

7. What does "*Parousia*" mean?

8. What is the emphasis of this present hour?

9. What does 1 John 4:17 teach?

10. What choice is placed before believers?

Study Answers

1. To transform believers into the image of Christ and make them kings and priests unto God.
2. Kings and priests.
3. What we are becoming in Christ.
4. Divine power or ability flowing from an indwelling nature.
5. Mature saints in whom Christ is formed.
6. Religion and doctrinal systems.
7. Manifest Presence.
8. Not merely doing, but becoming.
9. *“As He is, so are we in this world.”*
10. To drift downstream with religion or swim upstream toward Christ.