

Week of September 2, 2007

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Monday

1Pet. 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

God calls us to be an "odd" people. Not in the sense of crazy or eccentric, but in the sense of beauty and character. We are to be different in thought, interaction, service, obedience, and intention. Are you different, an oddity grace and light in a world of vindictiveness and darkness? Do you strive to the standards of God's grace — or merely expect others to live that way?

Tuesday

1Pet. 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (KJV)

My aunt and uncle owned the first 'color television' in my memory. Therefore at holiday times, for Thanksgiving parades and New Years ballgames, everyone in the family traveled to their home to eat, celebrate, and watch that TV. The contrast between the *colorless* and the *colorful* was such that the whole family was drawn to the set. Likewise, our lives should contrast against the darkness of the world with beautiful color. Pray that God will help you to be a drawing light in the darkened world.

Wednesday

Eph. 4:18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

We forget that you cannot educate lost men and women into correct godly behavior. You cannot force a world that does not know God to act as if it has always known Him. The only way to preserve a moral and Christian environment for our families is to lead the lost to Jesus. The unregenerate man will never live as if he has been redeemed. The unregenerate woman will never walk in virtue. Christians fail themselves and others when they expect education or politics to straighten out the world. Witness for Jesus and his kingdom!

Thursday

John 9:41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Practically, there is no difference between the man who cannot see and the man who keeps his eyes tightly shut. The sighted have no advantage over the blind unless they open their eyes. When we fail to view the world through the lens of God's word we are functionally blind. God's word speaks to our marriage, our work, our daily walk of life. If we fail to walk in the light of his word, we will stumble and fall. We will find confusion and frustration. We will miss the path of hope. Open you eyes to the truth of God's word in every area of your life.

Friday

Eph. 5:7-8 Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light

Redemption removes the eternal penalty of our sin. We do not need to worry of God's judgment. We do not need to fear condemnation and hell. Still we fail to understand salvation, if we think that redemption provides a free pass for those who continue in sin. The temporal/earthly consequences for those who know Jesus and choose disobedience is as great... no, it is greater than for those who do not know Him.