

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH CHRIST

MEMORY VERSE

I Peter 2:9

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

1. As believers, what does God's word declare that we are? (1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:5b-6)

God tells us that we are priests unto God, appointed to minister to Him and for Him. Some of us may shrink from such an awesome responsibility, but God has called *every* believer to be a minister for Him.

2. What is our first priority as priests unto God? (II Chronicles 29:11)

3. What is God's heart for His church? (Ephesians 5:25-27)

- a. _____
 b. _____

4. What is God's heart for the lost? (II Peter 3:9)

As we spend time fulfilling our ministry to God, He will plant the desires of His heart into ours. The more we grow to love the Lord, the more we will long to minister to people so that many unbelievers will be saved and so God's church may be strong, healthy and continually growing.

5. As a royal priesthood in God's Kingdom, what are we to proclaim? (I Peter 2:9)

6. To whom has God given the earth? (Psalm 115:16)

God's original plan for man was to empower us to subdue and take dominion over the earth, extending His Kingdom wherever we went (Genesis 1:28). When man fell, he forfeited his authority on earth to Satan, who became the prince or ruler of this world (John 16:11) and the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2).

Since God’s intention was always that man would overcome the evil one, Jesus had to become a man, live a sinless life and become the atoning sacrifice for the sins of mankind. In dying and rising from the dead, Jesus defeated the devil and all his forces and took back the keys of death and hell. (Colossians 2:15, Revelation 1:17-18) He did this not only so that we would be spared from hell, but also so that we as His church would plunder hell *by partnering with Him* to rescue the world from eternal death.

7. What does God say that we are? (Romans 8:17)

8. What is our inheritance? (Psalm 2:8)

9. What ministry has God entrusted us with? (II Corinthians 5:18)

10. What else are we called to be? (II Corinthians 5:20)

11. What else are believers called? (II Corinthians 3:2-3)

God wants us all to know that the responsibility for the salvation of the lost and the growth of the church (in numbers, power, fruit and maturity) is not simply His—it is ours too! We are heirs of God, co-heirs with Christ, and priests in His Kingdom! Each one of us has a ministry and a call from God, and we must take that call very seriously.

12. Read Romans 10:14-15. Explain our responsibility in the proclamation of the gospel.

13. Read Matt. 25:14-30. How does Jesus say God will reward those who fulfilled the ministry He gives them to accomplish? (Vv. 20-23)

14. How will God reward those who neglect the ministry He gives them to accomplish? (Vv. 24-30, 1 Corinthians 3:15)

We would then be wise to prepare ourselves to fulfill the call of God on our lives.

Read the following passages and record what we are commanded to do as God’s ministers.

I Timothy 4:7-8

I Timothy 4:15

I Timothy 4:16

II Timothy 2:15

II Timothy 4:1-2

II Timothy 4:5

16. In what way does God prepare us for the work he has for us to do? (Ephesians 4:11-13)

17. What is the goal of such equipping? (Vv. 12- 13)

18. What is God able to do with one person who is fully submitted to Him? (Ephesians 3:20)
