



If we are Christians, the question each of us must ask ourselves is if we are living our lives as *priests of God Most High*? Christians should offer up spiritual sacrifices to God every day in the way we live our lives and in our worship to Him. Just as the peo-

ple of old were commanded to only offer the best they had to God, we must make certain our sacrifices are the best we have! As priests of God we are called to a special standard of conduct. The world should see the life of Christ in our conduct.

Let's recognize that we have been set apart to God as Christians and live up to this honor. Peter challenges us to recognize, **“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).



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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

14.49

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

December 2
2012



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

Priests of God

By Kyle Pope

A priest is a person who is set apart unto a special service to God. Priests carry out particular acts of worship, and offer up sacrifices to honor and petition God. As long as men have worshipped God there have been those who have performed this service.

The Patriarchal Age

The earliest mention of men who served God in this capacity comes in the first book of the Bible. Genesis 14:18-20 tells of a man by the name of Melchizedek. Verse 18 states—**“...he was the priest of God Most High”** (NKJV). Abraham, the great man of faith, was not himself described as a priest, but he gave Melchizedek one tenth of all his spoils after the defeat of Chedorlaomer (Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:4). Exo-

Exodus 2:15-21 tells of another man named Reuel (or Jethro) who would later become Moses' father-in-law. Verse 16 refers to him as the **“Priest of Midian.”** Even after Moses began to lead Israel, his advice to him removed a great burden from his shoulders (Exodus 18:1-27). Scripture has not revealed to us



Olsen Park church of Christ

how priests during this time were chosen or what was involved in their service before God. It is clear, however, that these were priests that served God.

The Mosaic Age

When the Law of Moses was given God set apart a special class of men to serve as priests. This priesthood involved a High Priest (Exodus 28:1) and those of the tribe of Levi who were descendants of Aaron (Numbers 3:3). Not every Israelite could act as priest. Tracing one's ancestry to Aaron and Levi was required. These men attended to the tabernacle (and later to the temple). They offered sacrifices for the people that they could not offer themselves. Even a king was not allowed to assume the responsibility of a priest (2 Chronicles 26:16-21). This was a special role they alone could fill. The lifestyle of the priests was held to a special standard of conduct. They could marry only virgins—no divorced women (Leviticus 21). They could drink no wine or strong drink when they carried out their service (Leviticus 10). This allowed them a clear mind to perform their service and a pure example to set before the people.

The Christian Age

With the passing away of the Mosaic Law (2 Corinthians 3:7-13), the Levitical and Aaronic priesthood has also passed away. We no longer even have any way to know if someone is descended from Levi and Aaron. This has led some to affirm that now there is no priesthood in the Christian age. That is not exactly true. It is correct that there are no men who serve as “clergy” through whom a separate class of “laity” may approach God. It is also true that under Christ there are no individuals who perform the functions of worship while others observe. Now worship is collective in nature. However, the Christian age actually does have both a High Priest and a priesthood.

Jesus is the High Priest. Hebrews 4:14-15 teaches that Jesus Christ Himself serves in the role of High Priest on behalf of Christians. The nature of His work is that of intercession. Scripture says—**“...He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them”** (Hebrews 7:25).

All Christians are Priests. The priesthood under Christ is now made up of all true believers (men, women, old, young, black, white, Jew, or Gentile). 1 Peter 2:4-5 teaches that believers are a **“...holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”** Christians carry out this priestly service in the spiritual sacrifices we each offer up to God when we worship Him (1 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 13:15), and in daily obedience to Him, which is offered as a “living sacrifice” (Romans 12:1).