

Special

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

1 Peter 2:9 NIV

A wonderful friend of mine always spoke with enthusiasm whenever he was in conversation with me. One of his favourite adjectives was the word "special". So, of course, when he said this, that, and the other thing were all "special"—then nothing was special.

The word "special" means better than the usual or customary. It means the object or person being described stands above other things or persons. Peter is telling us that the people of God are unusually good and in a class by themselves—well above the average.

What is it that makes the people of God "special"? First Peter says that God's people are "a chosen people". We have no desire to quarrel with others about the doctrine of election, we simply quote the Bible and let it speak for itself. God chose to save some people and it is not a wonder that

He did not chose all—but rather a wonder that He chose any.

The second thing that separates God's people from others is that we are called "priests to God". We actively do service for the Lord in worship and praise to Him. We draw near to Him in holy service.

Next Christians are a holy people. This means we are set apart for a particular service—we are to be morally pure, we are to reflect the character of our Creator. We behave in a loving manner, we act with compassion, with justice, with mercy toward all people.

Then Peter uses this word "special" and states that we are God's special possession. In Acts 17:28 we read, "For in him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring...'" Through creation we all are God's offspring or children.

However, through being born again we are God's children in a special manner. And the purpose for being God's "special possession" is so that we may "declare" the praise of God. God has a special purpose for His special people. Are you living up to your purpose as a chosen one, a priest, a holy person, a special possession, one who declares the praise of God?

Perhaps today you have been missing the mark. You may need to return to the Lord Who has loved you so much and conferred all these honours on you. The wonderful truth is that the Lord desires your company. He wishes to spend time alone with you to minister grace, strength for the day, and to pour His love and peace into your heart. Do not keep Him waiting. Come to Him and come today.

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