

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people." (1 Peter 2:9, KJV)

## A Peculiar People

The apostle's description of the people of God — the church of Christ — in the above text is beautiful, inspiring, and challenging. We are humbled that our God would use such terms in reference to His people, and we are encouraged by the fact that He did so.

One word in the text that somewhat lessens its effect is the word "peculiar". Some have explained it in its modern usage and almost have us ready to submit to the role of peculiarity (from the viewpoint of the world, of course), but then we discover what the word really means, and we are relieved and delighted with it. The word is *peripoiesis* in the Greek (the language in which the New Testament was originally written) and means "an obtaining, an acquisition" (as defined by *Vine's Dictionary of New Testament Words*). The marginal reading of our text in my Bible is "a purchased people". It is the same word that is translated "purchased possession" in Ephesians 1:14.

While the world may indeed look upon us as "peculiar" (strange, weird, different) we know that Peter is not discussing how the world looks at us, but what God sees, when He looks at us. He sees us as His own purchased possession, bought and paid for. Note the following passages:

1 Corinthians 6:20 *"For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."*

Acts 20:28 *"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."*

Brethren, we are not a people to pitied, pampered, or pacified; and we have no reason to whine, groan, and nurse regrets. Let an unknowing world laugh, scold, or do whatever they wish. We are children of God! We are citizens of Heaven! WE ARE A PURCHASED PEOPLE! WE ARE REDEEMED!

The price that has been paid for us is the "precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:19). May this purchase price **inspire** us to a greater feeling of dignity and worth, **encourage** us to have a deeper feeling of humility and gratitude, and **challenge** us to a higher walk of holiness of conviction, while **motivating** us to set about teaching the Gospel to a lost and dying world that doesn't yet know that the price of redemption has been paid.

Jim O'Connor

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I appreciate the kind remarks from so many on my sermon series on the afterlife. Next week I'll be starting a new series — the last Sunday morning of every month — "I'm Glad I'm a Christian". The thrust of these lessons is pretty self-explanatory, and I think it will not only be encouraging to all of who have named the Name of the Lord, but to those who have not; why not invite a friend!?



Park Linscomb, our minister

This Sunday evening at the building we'll enjoy our usual devotional and bible study time. We've started meeting downstairs in the fellowship room around some tables. It's a little less formal. We'll be in 1 Thessalonians 5, if you'd like to read ahead. We're starting with verse 18. We had a great discussion last week; come join us this week.

# Our Family

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."  
1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

## TEENS

Monarch's Hockey Game: Fri., Jan. 27. Meet at the church building at 6 pm.

Dinner/Devo/Movie: Sat., Jan. 28 at the Nashua church from 5:30-9 pm. There are several teens from NE going. You can meet there or we will leave from the Manchester church at 5. Bring \$4 for pizza. We will be watching the movie, "Soul Surfer." We will probably be back at the building around 9:30 or 9:45.

Leominster, MA Spaghetti Supper/Silent Auction: Details are on the youth board. The proceeds go to the teens going to Winterfest.

Super Bowl Sunday: Feb. 5th is the Super Bowl! The teens will join the Merrimack small group at the Mosers for devotional time and watching the game. Bring snacks and drinks.

Conway Youth Rally: Feb. 24-26. Info and registration forms are on the youth board. Fill them out and send them in as soon as possible!

Youth Rally 2012: Mark your calendars for April 20-22 for our youth rally focused on serving!

## MARK YOUR CALENARS

**January 28** All are invited to Kory Horion's birthday celebration. Space Center in Hooksett. 11am-4pm.

**February 1 Leslie Taylor: Japan Mission trip Presentation** (Leslie applied for the Youth Minister position. Now planning to serve thru FT mission work in Japan.)

**February 19 Deacons annual status presentations**

**February 19 Third Sunday Potluck 5pm**

**March 23-25 Ladies Day at Conway Church of Christ**  
"Awaiting His Return"

**March 24 Ladies Day at Roxbury Church of Christ**  
"The Ten Virgins: So much in common" Matthew 25:1-13

**April 20-22 Manchester Youth Rally** This year more chaperone help will be needed because of the focus on service for this rally.

**August 17-19 Manchester Family Retreat at Gander Brook**

**August 18 Ladies Day at Millton Church of Christ**

## NOTE FROM THE ELDERS

If you attend the first service Sunday morning, we encourage you to try the second service for a few weeks. Say hello to people you may not see every week and encourage one another to spread the good news!

## MENU

February 1  
Meal begins at 5:45  
Beef Roast  
Carrots, Potatoes, Onions  
Dessert

## NEWS

**Please keep us up to date** by letting us know when you have prayer needs, change email, phone, or move.

**Dave & Lenore MacKinnon moved** this past Saturday to...18 Gilblair St, Skowhegan, ME 04976-1615. Dave's cell is 603-369-8468

**If you need** a copy of your contributions for taxes, Please let Tony Casella know.

**Did you know** that there are handouts for kids in the foyer by the bulletins? Crayons and coloring books are also available on the foyer shelves to the left of the window.



*Serve the Lord with gladness!*

## OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE

- **Help with the Youth Rally.**
- **Take the trash & recycling to the curb Wed nights.**
- **Mentor a younger Christian.**
- **Visit those sick or shut in.**
- **Cook for a Wednesday night supper.**
- Use **YOUR** talent for God.
- **The Pantry is in need of YOUR help.** We get a lot of requests this time of year so please bring donations of food (Place in boxes under coat rack.) Cash donations can be placed in envelopes available behind the seats. Drop them in the collection plate during worship service.

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*“Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?” (Galatians 4:7-9)*

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## The Difference Between Knowing God And Being Known By God

In Galatians 4:9 Paul makes a statement and then almost immediately does a self-correction, “or rather to be known by God” (v.9). Why? How does it make a difference?

James Taylor (“That’s Why I’m Here) wrote,

Fortune and fame’s such a curious game;  
Perfect strangers call you by name.  
Pay good money to hear ‘Fire and Rain’,  
Again and again and again.”

The very definition of being famous is that lots of people, the vast majority of which are perfect strangers, know who you are. I know who James Taylor, President Obama, and Harrison Ford are, and I could even *claim* that I know them (as fans sometimes will claim, because they once shook hands with them in a crowd); but of course, the truth is they wouldn’t have the slightest clue who I am. We don’t hang out together, we don’t exchange Christmas cards, and we’ve never so much as said hello to one another. They don’t know me.

This “fortune and fame” thing also applies to people “knowing” Jesus. There are many who know *about* Jesus, and there are many who *claim* they know Him. But the really crucial question that will matter in the end is: “Does Jesus know *them*? Does Jesus know *us*?”

It will certainly not be enough to merely know *about* Jesus. James (2:19) puts it this way, “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.” Such general knowledge is common among demons, atheists, the irreligious, and pagans — in our culture they often take His name in vain.

But to the surprise of many, it will not even be enough to *claim* that we know Him — “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’” (Matthew 7:21-23). According to Jesus’ own words, there will be a number of religious folks who appear to have taken the “buffet” approach to their “faith” and only dabbled in their obedience. Such dabbling leads to Jesus tragically declaring that He does not know them. What a shocking and horrifying realization to hear, when it’s too late.

Jesus must know **us**, and the difference is defined by Jesus by our willingness to **obey** Him — Matthew 7:21-23. In this sense the Galatian church had become known by the Lord, but at this point were considering going back to being unknown by the Lord anymore through disobedience.

Now some may object, “What about Matt. 10:32 in which Jesus says if we’ll just confess Him before men that He’ll confess us before the Father?” Yes, this is so, but did you know that confession is more than just what you say? Words are cheap, whereas actions confess what we really believe — Titus 1:16 “They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.” Obedience to Christ is the definitive form of Christian confession.

So, does Jesus know **you**?

THE MANCHESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST "WE ARE HERE & WE CARE" JANUARY 25, 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 Happy Birthday Linda Linscomb	1	2 Happy Birthday Mike Mosier & Carrie Ruddy	3 Happy Birthday Krystal Roukey	4
5	6 <b>Monday Night for the Master 6pm dinner</b>	7 Happy Birthday to Deb Garven	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Happy Anniversary to Algie & Diane Beard	15	16	17 Happy Birthday Bradley Chandler	18 <b>Small Group Singing at the Evans</b> Happy Birthday Jason Therrien
19 <b>Third Sunday Potluck 5pm Deacon's annual presentations.</b>	20	21 Happy Birthday Brandon Hombs	22	23	24 Happy Birthday Destiny Chase	25

8:30	WORSHIP LEADERS	11:00	<b>Stats</b>
Brandon Hombs	<b>Songs</b>	Mark Brown	Sunday morning attendance:.....122
Karl Davies	<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Rich Therrien	Sunday morning contribution.\$3813.82
Mark Evans	<b>Scripture</b>	Gary Diaz	Weekly budget.....\$3710.00
Stuart Peacock	<b>Lord's supper</b>	Pete Steffensen	Pantry served 2 families this week.
Mike Moser	<b>Coordinator</b>	Pete Steffensen	
Eve: Mark Evans	<b>Songs</b>	Wed 1: Mark Evans	

**The Manchester church of Christ**

603.623.5559 [mht\\_church@comcast.net](mailto:mht_church@comcast.net)

**Elders' Link: January**

Lee Davis 547-8876 [leedavis73@comcast.net](mailto:leedavis73@comcast.net)

Larry Glass 887-1741 [larrycalling@yahoo.com](mailto:larrycalling@yahoo.com)

If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak with them, please contact Larry or Lee this month.

**Deacons**

Finance: Tony Casella

Small Groups: Stuart Peacock

Education: Doug Paul

Maintenance: Peter Steffensen

**Our Worship Services**

Sunday AM: 8:30 & 11:00

Bible Class: 10:00

Sunday PM: 6:00

Small Groups:

West Side: 5PM at Doug Paul's house, Hebrews study

Merrimack: 5:30PM, contact Stuart Peacock, youth studies

Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

Contact David Skerry with Benevolence/Pantry needs.