ARE WE KINGS AND PRIESTS UNTO GOD?

In Rev.1,5&6 Unto Him that loved us,and washed us from our sins in His own blood,and hath made us kings and priests unto God and the Father;unto Him be glory and dominion forever and forever Amen.

Now let us turn to Rev.5,8 And when he (Christ) had taken the book, the four beasts and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb.And they sang a new song saying,thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof,for thou wast slain,and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood,out of every kindred,and ,tongue,and people,and nation;and hast made us unto our God ,kings and priests:and we shall reign with Him on the earth.

Under the old testament the High priest had certain duties to perform in the sacrifices and offerings,especially the yearly sacrifice, made for his own sins and the sins of the people,as we read in Hebrews 9,7But into the second (the most Holy place)went the High priest once every year,not ~~every-year~~ without blood,which he offered for himself, and for the sins of the people.Verse 8 The Holy Ghost this signifying that the way into the holiestt of all-(the new testament)was not yet made manifest,while as the first tabernacle was yet standing.

Christ our High priest,Heb.9,11.

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come,by a greater and a more perfect tabernacle,not made with hands,that is to say not of this building.Verse 24 For Christ is not entered into the Holy place made with hands,which are figures of the true;But into heaven itsself,now to appear in the presence of God for us 12 But by His own blood He entered in once into the Holy place,having obtained eternal redemption for us. 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many.25 Nor yet that He should offer Himself often,as the Highpriest entered into the Holy place every year with the blood of others. Heb.10,19 Having therefore boldness brethren,to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,by a new and living way,which He hath consecrated for us,through the vail,that is to say His flesh:21 And having an Highpriest over the house of God-(the Church) 22 Let us draw near with a true heart,in full assurance of faith,having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience,and our bodies washed with pure water.23 Let us hold fast the proffession of our faith without waivering.

HAVE WE BEEN MADE COMMON PRIESTS?

As we noticed from Rev.1,5-6 being addressed to the seven churches in Asia,He washed and cleansed us from our sins in His own blood.-- Ac. 20,28 He purchased the church with His own blood,-Ro.5,9 Justified by His blood.--Heb.13,12Sanctified the people with His own blood.

Also this reference Rev.1,5-6 tells us also,that we have been made Kings and priests unto God. Then we read in Rev.20,6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection;on such the second ~~dea~~ death hath no power,but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Now let us turn to 1 Pe.2-5 Ye also as lively stones,are built up a Spiritual house,an holy priesthood,to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.Now what are these Spiritual sacrifices we are to offer?--Turn to Ro.12,1 I beseech you therefore breeth ren,by the mercies of God,that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,holy,acceptable to God,which is your reasonable ~~sacrifice~~ service.And be not conformed to this world:but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable,and perfect will of God.--Col.3,5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth;fornication,uncleanness,inordinate affection, evil concupisence,and covetousness which is idolotry.

1 Pe.2,11 Dearly beloved,I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims,abstain from fleshlu lusts that war against the soul.--1 Pe.4;2-Verse 1 Foras much then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh,arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:For he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men,but to the will of God.

Phil.4,18 Paul referring to the help he had received from the Phillippeans,the things which were sent from you,an odour of sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable,well pleasing to God.--Heb.13,16 By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually,that is, the fruit of our lips,giving thanks to His name.

By these references we surely are required to make sacrifices.But how many of us sacrifice our pleasures to comply with God's will? How many of us are strict in meeting with the ones Christ died for,to keep His death in remembrance?

How do we reign with Him?

2 Tim,2,12 Informs us,If we suffer with Him,we shall also reign with Him.-He said to the apostles;I appoint unto you a kingdom,as my Father hath appointed unto me,Lu.22,29 And if we are governed by the things that the apostles have commanded and revealed--Turn to Page 2.

by the Holy Ghost,are they not ruling over us?And when we lead others to be governed by these things revealed,are we to a certain extent ruling over them?--Paul says in 1 Cor.14,37If any man think himself to be a prophet or Spiritual,let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of God.Also in 2 Pe. 3,1This second epistle,beloved.I now write unto you;in both(the first and second epistles)which I stir up your minds by way of remembrance:that ye may be mindful of the things which were spoken before by the holy prophets,and of the commandments of us the apostles,of the Lord and saviour,--Jude 17But,beloved remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember them,bemindful of them, If we do,they are governing us,ruling over us.

Do we rule with Him?

Rev.3,21 To Him that overcometh,will I grant to sit with me in my throne,even as I overcome,and are set with my Father in His throne.

1 Tim 5,17 Let the elders that rule well,be counted worthy of double honor,especially they that labour in word and doctrine.

1 Pe.5,1 The elders which are among you,I exhort,who am also an elder and a witness of the suffering of Christ,and also of the glory that shall be revealed,Feed the flock which is among you,taking the oversight,not by constraint,but willingly;not for filthy lucre,but of a ready mind.-- Ac.20,28 Paul addressing the elders at Ephesus,Take heed therefore unto yourselves,and to all the flock,over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,to feed the church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood.

Now let us get down to ourselves.

Col 3,15 Let the peace of God rule in your hearts,unto the which ye are called,and be ye thankful.

If we keep our bodies under subjection,and Let not sin have dominion over us as we are told Ro.6,12 Let not sin rule in your bodies.

1 Cor 9,27 Paul says,But I keep my body under subjection:lest that by any means,when I have preached to others,I myself should be a cast away. Be not conformed to the things of this world,but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds. Proverbs 25,28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit,is like a city that is broken down,and without walls.

Is not enough to convince us that we should offer our bodies a living sacrifice,by complying to His will?

J.H.Lackey Church of Christ.