A PECULIAR PEOPLE

All through the ages God's people have been a peculiar peo-
people.In Exodus 19,5 God instructing the children of Israel,in giv-
ing them the the ten commandments,reminded them of the things he had
done for them in delivering them from Egyptian bondage,Now therefore
if ye will obey my voice indeed,and keep my covenant,then ye shall
be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people:for all the earth is
mine.Also in Deut.14,2 For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy
God,and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto Him-
self,above all the nations that are upon the earth;Then again Psa.
135,4 For the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto Himself,and Israel for His
peculiar people.

Now let us consider Gods people under the new covenant. hath appeared unto
Tit.2,14,11 For the Grace of God which bringeth salvation to all
men 12 teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts,we
should live soberly,righteously,and Godly,in this present world;14
Looking for that blessed hope,and glorious appearing of the great God
and our Lord Jesus Christ;who gave Himself for us that He might re-
deem us from all iniquity,and purify to Himself a peculiar people
zealous of Good works. This is a considerable greater deliverance
than the children of Israel experienced when they were delivered
from Egyptian bondage.--We are delivered from the power of darkness,
and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son,in whom we have
redemption through His blood,even the forgiveness of sons.Col.1,13-14.
A Spiritual deliverance which we enjoy when we take advantage of when
we avail ourselves of The Grace of God which bringeth salvation,hath
appeared unto all men,teaching us that denying ungodliness and world-
lusts,to live soberly and righteously before God.

This peculiarity mentioned by Paul inspires us to be zealous of
good works. There is a zeal which is not conductive to good works
mentioned by Paul.And we are to avoid this variety of zeal.Paul re-
ferring to his own zeal in the past,before his conversion,as he was
making his defense before the council,after being assaulted by the
mob of Jews,Ac 22,3 I was zealous toward God as ye all are this day
4And persecuted this way unto death Again Phil.3,6 Concerning zeal
Persecuting the church. Gal.1,13 For ye have heard of my convrrsa-
tion in times past in the Jews religion,how that beyond measure I
persecuted the church of God and wasted it.14 And profited in the Jews
religion above many my equals in mine own nation,being more exceeding
zealous of the traditions of the fathers.Now turn to Ro.10,2 He says
of the Israelites,I bear them record,they have the zeal of God,but
not according to knowledge.--Therefore the zeal we should be inter-
ested in,is the the zeal which the Grace of God teaches us under the
New covenant,teaching ~~tha~~ us that denying ungodliness,and worldly lusts
we should live righteously and Godly in this present world.And be
zealous of Good works.

ACCEPTABLE ZEAL* Gal.4,18 But it is good to be zealously affect-
ed always in a good thing.Col.4,12 Epaphras,who is one of you,a serva
ant of Christ,saluteth you,always labouring fervently for you in pray-
ers,that ye may stand complete in all the will of God,For I bear him
record that he hath a great zeal for you,and them that are at Laodo-
cea,and them that are at Hierapolis.

IN STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL.

Phil.1,27 Only let your conversation be as becometh the gospel
of Christ,that whether I come to see you,or else be absent,I may hear
of your affairs,that ye stand fast in one spirit,with one mind striv-
ing together for the faith of the gospel.

FIRM. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith ye are called
and be not entangled again in the yoke of bondage.--Be ye steadfast,
unmoveable,always abounding in the work of the Lord.-Be not moved ~~abo~~
about with every wind of doctrine.

UNITED, Phil.1,27 Striving together for the faith of the gospel.
Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace.
IN CONVERSATION.1Pe.2,12 Having your conversation honest among the
Gentiles;that whereas they speak evil against you,they may by your
good works,which they behold,glorify God in the day of visitation.
1 Tim.4,12 Let no man despise thy youth;but be thou an exampleof the
believers,in word,in conversation, in charity,in faith,in purity.
1 Pe.1,14 As obedient children,not fashioning yourselves according to
the former lusts in your ignorance,But as He which ~~is~~ hathcalled
you is holy,so be ye holy in all manner of conversation .

THE TONGUE.Jas 1,26 If any man among you seemeth to be religious
and bridleth not his tongue,but deceiveth his own heart,this man's
religion is vain.27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the
Father is this,to visit the widows and fatherless in their affliction
and keep himself unspotted from the world.-Other exortations,Thou shalt
not bear false witness against thy neighbor,Speak not evil one of an
another.Lie not one to another.By these we learn the things necessary

SOME EXAMPLES OF GOOD WORKS.Ac.9,36 Dorcas spoken of as full of good works,the widows standing by,showing the garments she had made. 1 Tim.5,9-10 Reveals to us the widows to be cared for by the church, Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old having been the wife of one man,10 Well reported of for good works; if she have lodged strangers,if she have brought up children,if she have washed the saints feet,if she hath relieved the afflicted,if she have diligently followed every good work.-He.13,2 Be not forgetfuh to entertain strangers:for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.We have a referance from this back to Gen.18 where Abraham entertained the three angels who later told him of the coming destruction of Sodom and Gomorrow where his nephew lived.Let us now turn to He.13,16 But to do good and to communicate forget not,for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.-Communicate,We think of writing to o others or ordinary conversation,but we find another meaning of the word in Phil.4,15 Now ye Philippeans know also,that in the beginning of the Gospel,when I departed from Macedonia,no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiveing,but ye only.For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again to my needs.18 Iam full,having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you,an odour of sweet smell,a sacrifice acceptable,well pleasing to God.--Accordto that,we are under obligation to contribute to the needs of those who are evangelizing in the Lord's vineyard,and is a sacrifice well pleasing to God.

But let us not forget our duties to God,as a peculiar people zealous of good works;And whatsoever ye do in word or deed,do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,giving thanks unto God and the Father by Him. Let us lay aside every weight,and the sin that doth so easily beset us,and run with patience the race that is set before us ,looking to ~~Je~~ Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Let us not forget to meet on the first day of the week aas the disciples did as recorded in Ac.20,7 to break bread,in remembrance of the sacrifice Christ made in order to purify to Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works.and as is recorded of the first converts in Ac,2,42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine,in fellowship,and in breaking of bread,and in prayers.As Paul teaches in 1 cor.11-23,25 For I have received of the Lord,that which also I delivered unto you,That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread.And when He had given thanks,He brake it,and said, take eat this is my body,which is broken for you:this do in remembrance of me.25 After the same manner also He took the cup,when He had supped, saying,This cup is the new testament in my blood;this do ye as oft as ye drink it in remembrahce of me.26 For as oft as ye eat of this bread and drink of this cup,ye do show the Lords death till He come.

Let us remember that God has given us all things that pertain to life and Godliness,through a knowledge of HIm that hath called us out of darkness into Hi s marvelous light. Also He.12,28 Wherefore ,we receiveing a kingdom which cannot be moved,let us have grace whereby we may serve Him acceptably,with reverance and Godly fear.

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