

CHURCH AGE PRIESTHOOD

“You (all church age believers), also, as living stones (2:4), *are being built up (oikodomeo / p.p.ind.2pl) as a spiritual house for a holy (hagios) priesthood (hierateuma), to offer up (anaphero / a.a.infin) spiritual (pneumatikos) sacrifices (thusia) acceptable (euprosdektos) to God through Jesus Christ.” (2:5)*

Last week we learned that every dispensation of biblical history has a special priesthood that officiates spiritual sacrifices and services to and for God.

This week we will study NINE of these sacrifices and services of the CHURCH AGE PRIESTHOOD.

1. Let me begin by explaining that all church age believers are royal and holy priests after the order of the priesthood of Jesus Christ (Heb.5-7; 1 Pet.2:5, 9). This is because of positional truth.

“And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, *and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (Rev.1:5-6)*

2. Every believer-priest has direct access to the throne of God’s grace (Heb.2:17-18; 7:24-27; 9:24-28; 10:19-25; Rom.8:34; Eph.2:18-22; 1 Pet.2:4-5).

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. *Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb.4:14-16)*

3. Every church age believer is in charge of NINE priestly sacrifices and services to and for God in the name of Jesus Christ.

1. Sacrifice (thusia) of praise (ainesis) (Heb.13:15)
2. Sacrifice of doing good (eupoia) (Heb.13:16a)
3. Sacrifice of Sharing (koinonia) (Heb.13:16b)
4. Sacrifice of love (agape) (Eph.5:2)
5. Sacrifice of body (soma) to spiritual worship (logikos latreia) (Rom.12:1)
6. Sacrifice and spiritual service (leitourgia) of evangelism (euaggelion) (Rom.15:15-16)
7. Sacrifice and spiritual service of faith (pistis) (Phil.2:17-18)
8. Sacrifice and spiritual service of needs (husterema/ lacking) of others (2 Cor.9:12-13; Phil.2:25; 4:11,18-19)
9. Spiritual service of spiritual gift (Acts 13:2; 1 Pet.4:10-11)