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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church

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Text: 1 Pet.2:4-10

Series: Ministering to a Spiritually Declining Nation

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MINISTERING TO SPIRITUAL DECLINING NATION (part three)

This is the third lesson of a series of lessons entitled, Ministering to a Spiritually Declining Nation.

In this lesson, we will study four aspects of the Church's ministry to the Spiritually Declining Nation of These United States of America.

1. Jesus gave a heads-up regarding the change in Divine Agency in the doctrinal point of the Parable of Tenants (Matt.21:33-46).

(Matt.21:43) "Therefore (dia touto) [because of this] (Matt.21:42) (Ps.118:22-23) I say to you, the **kingdom of God** will be taken (airo/ f.p.ind.3ps) [**take away or removed**] from (apo+abl.of separation) **you**, and be given (didomi/ **f.p.ind.3ps**) to a **nation (ethnos/ dsm)** producing (poieo/ p.a.ptc.dsm) the fruit (tous karpos/ aplm) **of it.**" [Notice that both verbs "be taken away and be given" are (f.p.ind.3ps)].

- Future Pentecost (Acts 2)
- Passive Sovereign God will make the exchange of divine agencies (Matt.21:41-46)
- Indicative Historical reality of the exchange of the Divine Agency in the dispensation of the Church.

2. The Greek word for nation is ethnos in (Matt.21:42). It can be translated People, Nation, and Gentile. Context always determines its meaning.

In (Matt.21:42), ethnos is used in contrast to the Priest-Nation of Israel. "**(for He who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles).**" (Gal.2:8/ ch.2)

All conservative theologians believe Jesus was referring to the church and specifically to Gentiles in Matt.21:42.

Ryrie study Bible on Matt.21:42: "Taken from the Jews and given to the church which is composed largely of Gentiles (1 Pet.2:9).

Notice Ryrie quoted (1 Pet.2:9) as a proof text. The greater context of this verse is our lesson text (1 Pet.2:4-10) [Study Bible]. Peter is quoting from the same Old Covenant passage of (Ps.118:22-23) as in (Matt.21:42-44).

Both Peter and Paul connected this ethnos to the mystery of the church.

(Col.1:25-27) "Of this **church** I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is **the mystery** which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, **but now** has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of **this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**"

3. **Both Peter and Paul taught that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the prophetic “Chief Cornerstone” of the Church.**

Peter:

(Acts 4:8-12): “Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene**, whom you crucified, who God raised from the dead – **by this name** this man stands here before you in good health. ‘He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief cornerstone (Ps.118:22; 1 Pet.2:7).’ And there is salvation in no one else; for there is **no other name under heaven** that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”
(Acts 4:10-12)

Paul:

(Eph.2:11-22) “**formerly** (vs.11-12) **but now** (vs.13-18) **so then** (vs.19-22): “**So then you are** no longer strangers and aliens, **but you are** fellow citizens with the saints, **and are** of God’s household, having been built on **the foundation** of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, **in whom you also are** being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” (Eph.2:19-22)

(Gal.3:26-29) Because Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone of the Christian church, there are **no (ethnos) distinctions** “For all of you were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is **neither** Jew nor Greek, there is **neither** slave nor free man, there is **neither** male nor female; for you are **all one in Christ Jesus.**”

4. **The early church flourished in growth while ministering in the Priest-Nation under the 4th cycle of Divine Discipline and while being greatly persecuted by this Priest-Nation (Acts 4-9; Matt.21:40-46).**

120 Spiritually Advancing (mature) believers meeting in a rented room (Acts 1:12-15) committed themselves to custodianship responsibility of evangelism with the gospel of grace salvation of Jesus Christ.
(1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)

Notice carefully the results of this commitment.

- By (Acts 2:41) This **120 had grown to 3,120** by taking custodianship of evangelism.
- By (Acts 2:47) They were adding newly born believers **DAILY**.
- By (Acts 4:4) The numbers had grown to **8,120**.

This was done in a time and nation in great spiritual decline. It was also done in a time and nation that was persecuting the church greatly.

(Acts 8:2) “And on that day a **great persecution** began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.”

(Acts 1:8) Missionary Evangelism

Message to the Spiritually Mature Pivot of Doctrinal Studies Bible Church:

“Paul and Barnabas **spoke out boldly** and said, ‘It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, **behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.** For so the Lord commanded us, ‘I have placed You (Christ) as a light for the Gentiles, that You (Christ) may bring salvation to the **end of the earth.**’” (Acts 13:47) (Acts 1:8; John 1:11-13; Isa.42:6-7; 49:6; Luke 2:32; John 8:12)