

## A People for His Own Possession; 1 Peter 2:9

- I. Why?
  - A. The meaning of life
  - B. We can all struggle with this
    1. Why am I here, what is my purpose in life?
    2. Is there any sense to this world and everything that happens in it?
    3. What is my role?
    4. This is something that I had to answer for many young Airmen
  - C. All we have to do is read a little and pretty quickly we can find our purpose, our reason for living, our role in the universe
  - D. God has made us who we are for His purpose — a chosen race (lineage), a royal priesthood, a holy nation (ethnicity), and a people for His own possession
- II. Possession
  - A. To own, property — but with a twist, keeping safe, preserving, saving <sup>1</sup>
  - B. We tend to fight this definition pretty hard
    1. I think we see this through a worldly lens
    2. Our experience or knowledge takes us back to the beginning of our country when people owned other people
      - a) For their own benefit
      - b) To make them work without compensation
      - c) To make them do things they themselves were unwilling to do
      - d) To take advantage of them
    3. His possession of us is not for His benefit, but for ours
      - a) Salvation is for our benefit — God did not have to offer it to us
      - b) Our compensation is eternity with the Father
      - c) God was willing to (and did) sacrifice his Son for us
      - d) His possession of us is to our advantage, not His
  - C. When we see these words that evoke strong feelings in us, we should remember their true meaning and purpose
- III. Purpose
  - A. That our actions might show God's love to those around us
    1. Ephesians 2:10 (ESV); For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
    2. Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV); <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
  - B. That our suffering may strengthen and complete us
    1. James 1:2–4 (ESV); <sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
    2. 2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV); Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
    3. Romans 5:3–5 (ESV); <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

---

<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 804.

- C. That we proclaim Jesus the Christ as the Messiah and God His Father
    - 1. 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV); But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
    - 2. Proclaim — to report (nothing fancy, like a herald or an evangelist)
      - a) The word ‘speak’ is used 60 times in the book of Acts — 56 of those times are referencing preaching the word of God
      - b) Evangelize — 15 times
      - c) Herald — 8 times
      - d) Everyone of us, as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for God’s own possession, must report to those around us the excellencies of God
    - 3. Excellencies — manifestation of divine power, miracle <sup>2</sup>
      - a) Acts 2:11 (ESV); both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”
      - b) The apostles are not preaching — they are not evangelizing or heralding
      - c) They are simply reporting to the crowd the mighty works of God
  - D. These are three of our God given purposes
- IV. Called Out
- A. We have been called out of darkness — we are no longer who we once were
  - B. We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’ own possession
  - C. Galatians 2:20 (ESV); I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
  - D. And all that God requires of you (me) — is all of you (me)

---

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 130.