

"WE THE PEOPLE" OF GOD

Introduction

Our Constitution begins with the words "We the People", followed by a desire to make America a more perfect union. God's people desire to "conform" to God's will to help make the church more complete in following the will of God Who has already planned and established the church, as revealed in the scripture.

The word "people" is found some 1600 times in the Old Testament, describing some who were and some who were not God's people prior to the coming of Jesus. There are 4 special references to "the people of God" today. The Lord wanted Paul to remain in Corinth and preach the gospel for He had much "**people**" (potentially) there (Acts 18:10). Then Paul writes, "And it shall come to pass that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my **people**; there shall they be called the children of the living God" (Acts 9:26). Then, Paul declares that the saved are "a peculiar **people**, zealous of good works" (Tit. 2:14). Finally, Peter confirms Paul in referring to saints as "a peculiar **people**" to show forth praises to God (1 Pet. 2:9).

Now let's consider Three Actions of the People of God.

Discussion

I. 1st, "We the people" REALLY BELIEVE IN GOD.

A. It is virtually meaningless to **say** "I believe in God," without doing what He says to do. Psa. 14:1; Jas. 2:19; Heb. 11:6; Mat. 7:21

1. God is the center of all things in the universe. Gen. 1:1; 2 Pet. 3:7
2. God is the Savior of all who **really** "believe" in Him. Acts 16:30-34
(Read and explain)

B. Let's note a few of God's characteristics.

1. 1st, God is "Spirit" and not physical like man. John 4:24; cf Psa. 50:17-22
(Read and Comment)
2. 2nd, God is "eternal"--He has always existed and will continue to do so. Deut. 33:27; Rom. 1:20
3. 3rd, God is "omnipotent", or all-powerful—having the power to create and to bless and condemn eternally. Mat. 19:26
4. 4th, God is "love" and offers salvation through His teaching. 1 John 4:8
5. 5th, God is "omni-present" (everywhere) and sees everything. Heb. 4:13

II. 2nd, "We the People" REALLY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.

A. Adam and Eve experienced good and then evil, now realizing that there is a difference, and knowing what it is to disobey God. Cf Gen. 6:1-3

1. God revealed and continues to reveal through His word—what is good and what is evil.
 - a. The word "good" contains the letters for GOD.
 - b. The word "evil" is found in the name for DEVIL.
2. We can see the results of both, but God **reveals** what is right and what is wrong. Mic. 6:8; Prov. 4:2; Isa. 8:20; 5:20

B. The **way** we always know whether something is right or wrong is to go to the Bible.

1. In religious matters, God's rules have gradually developed for Christian worship, and obedience is required. John 4:24; 17:17
2. In other actions, God's word always tells us what to do and what not to do. 1 Thes. 5:21-22
 - a. Murder has always been wrong, and is wrong today. Gen. 4:1-11; 9:6; Exo. 20:13; John 8:44; 1 John 3:15; Rev. 21:8
 - b. Fornication, adultery and homosexuality have always been wrong and continue to be wrong.
 - c. Men and politicians may **say** something that God calls sin is **really** acceptable today, but it is an abomination.
 - d. Men look at the results or consequences of something to decide whether it is right or not, but we need to first look at what God has decreed about it.
 - e. Men say drinking alcohol is wrong only if one drinks "too much" or if someone is killed because of it, but God has always condemned it's use. Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35; Hab. 2:15-16; 1 Pet. 2:11

III. 3Rd, "We the people" WANT TO AVOID HELL.

A. The Bible teaches the reality of hell fire, as a consequence of sin and disobedience to God's will.

1. Hell is described in vivid language as a place of fire and torment. Cf Luke 16:20-25 (comment); Mark 9:43-49
2. Hell is also described as a lake of fire and brimstone. Rev. 21:8
3. Hell is also a place of continual destruction. Matt. 10:28

B. We may **say** we want to avoid hell, but if we **really** want to do so, we will turn away from sin and turn to God in obedience. Heb. 5:8-9

Conclusion

I. Right this moment, **if** the world ends and you are standing before Christ in judgment, **where would you spend eternity?**

II. The "people of God" today are His "children" (Rom. 9:26). cf Gal. 3:26-27

--If you **knew** you had a terminal illness and could take a 1-hour treatment and be healed for life, wouldn't you take it? Why not take the Lord's treatment for salvation—taking less than an hour?

Don Tarbet