

## 5. A People Committed Being an

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But **you are a chosen people**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now **you are the people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9, 10 NIV

**Be very careful, then, how you live**—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the Lord's will is**. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit**, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:16-20 NIV

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it**

Matthew 16:15-18 NIV

*Our hope as a nation isn't in the hands of  
a donkey or an elephant  
our hope rests in the lamb of God.*

*Samuel Rodriguez*

## Hope for America

July 3, 2016

Paul F. Knight

HOPE Church ~ Grand Cities Mall  
Independence Day Weekend

### A Message of Hope for America

#### A Message from 1 Peter

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:9-12 NIV

...from Issachar,

men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do  
—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command...

1 Chronicles 12:32 NIV

#### What do our times need?

*The local Church is the hope of the world.*

*~ Bill Hybels*

# 1. A People Committed to a

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so **be holy in all you do**; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: **“Be holy, because I am holy.”**  
1 Peter 1:13-15 NIV

*I believe we would be more effective  
creating a godly culture if the culture saw us being more effective  
in our pursuit of personal obedience.  
In other words, people would be more impressed  
if we lived more like Jesus Christ.*

I am not sure that we always remember  
that \_\_\_\_\_ is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

# 2. A People Committed to a

...but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.  
1 Peter 1:25 NIV

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. <sup>12</sup> **Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors.** Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, **they will see your honorable behavior,** and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.  
1 Peter 2:11, 12 NIV

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> **All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.  
2 Timothy 3:10-17 NIV

# 3. A People of Committed to

Dear friends, **do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal** that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But **rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ,** so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?  
1 Peter 4:12-17 NIV

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> **“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”** <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. <sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth...” <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world.”  
Matthew 5:10-14 NI

**Whatever happens,** conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ... For **it has been granted to you** on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also **to suffer for him...**  
Philippians 1:27 & 29 NIV

# 4. A People of Committed to a

...**that you may declare the praises of him** who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.  
1 Peter 2:9, 10 NIV

<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always **be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope** that you have. But do this with **gentleness and respect.**  
1 Peter 3:14-16 NIV

For **I am not ashamed of the gospel,** because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Romans 1:16 NIV

If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”  
Mark 8:38 NIV