

## **QUESTION 34**

***SINCE WE ARE REDEEMED BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH CHRIST ALONE, MUST WE STILL DO GOOD WORKS AND OBEY GOD'S WORD?***

***YES, SO THAT OUR LIVES MAY SHOW LOVE AND GRATITUDE TO GOD; AND SO THAT BY OUR GODLY BEHAVIOR OTHERS MAY BE WON TO CHRIST.***

### **READ 1 PETER 2:9-12**

Peter is trying to help some of his Christian friends understand who they are. When someone becomes a Christian, he or she becomes a citizen of heaven. Although Christians live on earth for a time, their real home is with God in heaven—that's why Peter calls Christians "sojourners." Peter says that they are members of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for God's own possession.

**Chosen:** God has chosen people to become members of his family, citizens of heaven, and he wants to spend forever with them. Christians are God's possessions, which he bought with the blood of his precious Son.

**Holy:** Christians are set aside by God to be sanctified—to become more like Jesus.

**A royal priesthood:** Christians have direct access to God and have been called to serve others for God's glory.

God gives his people an identity, and he also gives his people a purpose in life. As citizens of heaven, God wants Christians to live in a new way, the way of their new adoptive Father and heavenly country. He wants the world to know all about him and about Jesus, and his plan has always been to use Christians to "proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"(1 Pet. 2:9).

When we do good works and obey God's Word, we are acting like citizens of heaven. We are showing people what our adoptive heavenly Father is like, and we hope that our lives will encourage them to join God's family. Doing good works and obeying God's Word won't make anyone right with God. Instead, Christians will do good works and obey God's Word as a response to God's kindness.

God clearly teaches through his Word who his people are and what their purpose in life is. They have an identity and a job! Becoming a citizen of heaven is the most wonderful thing that could happen to anyone ever and serving God in his world is an immense privilege.

**MEMORY VERSE** 1 Pet. 2:9-12