

CONSECRATE MY PEOPLE!

(Part 1: Exodus 19:4-6)

God is most concerned about the holiness of His people. We are saved and redeemed by God to be His sanctified and consecrated people, to be utterly separated from sin and be wholly devoted to God and His glory (John 17:17-19). Our Lord Jesus died on the Cross to deliver us from our sins and set us apart for a life of holiness so we could effectively fulfill our mission to proclaim the gospel to the lost. This biblical pattern of deliverance, consecration and mission is what we also find in God's covenant relationship with Israel. As God ushers them to their new beginning as His delivered and redeemed people, the Lord commands Moses to consecrate them in view of their divine mission to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. As we begin this New Year, we should also heed God's command to consecrate ourselves before the Lord. Let's consider this essential principle related to our call to live a consecrated and sanctified life.

1. Remember God's work of _____.

Our sanctification is always grounded on our redemption. Our consecration is rooted in God's redeeming and delivering work. In other words, if God has not delivered us from our sin, we cannot obey His command God to live a sanctified and holy life.

a. Remember that the Lord has _____ you and _____ you to Himself. The Lord reminds Israel of what He has graciously done to deliver them from their slavery to Egypt and to savingly bring them to Himself. The people of Israel did nothing to save themselves. God did everything. Like a strong and mighty eagle which rescues and protects its young eaglets, the Lord rescued Israel from her enemies, carried them to a safe place and brought them to Himself (Exod. 19:4; 15:6-7,10-13). We are saved by God and for God. God has saved us so we could know Him, enjoy Him, love Him and glorify Him (Eph. 2:12-13).

b. Remember that the Lord demands your _____.

Salvation leads to a life of obedience. Deliverance demands a life of discipleship. In the words of our Lord to Israel, "Now therefore, if you will obey My voice and keep My covenant" (Exod. 19:5). The order is significant. God saves His people first before He demands their obedience. God delivers them first before they could keep His covenant. God rescues us from our sins through Jesus' life of perfect righteousness and atoning death on the Cross. Then, He calls us to obey Him and live for His glory.

c. Remember that the Lord defines your _____.

God is the One who defines our worth and identity. Since God has delivered us, He regards us as His treasured possession. Though He owns everything as the Creator, He has this unique and special delight and love for His redeemed people. God also defines our purpose and mission. He has called us to be His kingdom of priests and His holy nation commissioned to proclaim His excellencies and His glorious gospel to this sinful world (Exod. 19:6; 1 Pet. 2:9).

