

## Study 0096

### THE CHRISTIAN IN THE MARKETPLACE (6)

In our last study, we discussed the character of the marketplace as it relates to the believer in Christ, and noted that if a person is a Christian indeed, he will remain a Christian in the marketplace. We also noted that who you are on the inside is made manifest in the marketplace, because, the nature or character of the marketplace either brings out the nature of God in a person, or, the nature of the world, the flesh and sin in that individual. We said that the marketplace on one hand is a location where people of all walks of life and of every persuasion, transact and engage in their daily passions and pursuits, and where public discourse holds, and ideas of all sorts are bandied (**Proverbs 1:20-21; Matthew 23:7; Mark 7:4; Acts 17:17-21**); and, on the other hand, it is the world system, which governs, controls, and regulates the way things are done among the people of the world, how they live, how they spend money and on what, how they are governed and by whom, how they learn and are taught, and so on. From **John 17:14-18** and **1 John 2:15-17**, we noted the marketplace operates in a manner that is contrary to the way God wants His children to operate; it is not Christ-friendly, neither is it tolerant of Christians; it is the abode of evil; it is temporal and illusive; its inclinations are not from God; and, it seeks to bring everything that is associated with it under its control.

We saw that in spite of all these, the Lord Jesus prayed to God that Christians should not be taken out of the world, but be sent into the world, and kept from the evil (corruption) in it. We saw that the reason for keeping Christians in the world is so that they can bring in potential labourers from it into God's vineyard (**Matthew 20:1-7; 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:11-14**). And although it is not inappropriate for a Christian to be sent into the world, it is extremely important that the Christian does not get influenced by the corruptive influence of, and the corruption in the world. Thus, while the Christian can co-exist with the people of the world, he is not expected to become like them (**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17**). We noted that for the church to be in the world is a good thing; but for the world to be in the church is disastrous for the church! We thus observed that the Christian has a major role to play in the marketplace; and it is not for him to make the marketplace his home or comfort zone, and hence turn his passions, pursuits, and affections to it. Rather, his role is to draw men out of the evil of the marketplace into the sanctuary of God (**1 Peter 2:9; 1 Samuel 22:1-2; Matthew 11:28; John 7:37-38**).

#### Scripture Text: 1 Peter 2:9, 11

The ninth verse of the scripture text above, is identical to **Exodus 19:4-6**. Looking at both scripture verses, we see certain similarities, but while the one in the Old Testament refers to the nation of Israel, the New Testament scripture refers to the spiritual Israel, the Church. The similarities in both scripture verses help us understand much better, what the Christian should be doing in the marketplace. When God introduced the subject in **Exodus 19:4-6**, He stated that He it was, Who brought Israel out of bondage from Egypt unto Himself, and that if Israel obeyed His voice and kept His covenant, then they would be to Him a peculiar treasure, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. For spiritual Israel, the Church, it was also God Who brought us out of bondage through Jesus Christ unto Himself, expecting us to obey His word, and, making us a part of His New Covenant. The similarity in the cases of the nation of Israel of old and spiritual Israel, makes it clear that God's intention for His people has not been altered by the Covenants, neither has time changed it. His intention is that His people will be the source of the revelation of God to a world that is yet to know Him through their character and conduct (**Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48**)!

## ASSIGNMENT

What is the implication of the Christian in the marketplace based on how he is described in the scripture text, for the fulfilment of God's purpose for him in the marketplace (*you may use the scripture verses provided, and others not provided*)?

(a) A chosen generation (**John 15:16; 1 Corinthians 1:26-28; Romans 8:29; Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Jeremiah 1:4-10**)

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(b) A royal priesthood (**Hebrews 5:6, 10; 6:20; Genesis 14:18-19; Revelation 1:4-6; 5:9-10; Romans 12:1**)

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(c) A holy nation (**1 Peter 1:15-16; Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:1-37; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17**)

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(d) A peculiar people (**Exodus 19:5; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Acts 20:28**)

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(e) Strangers and pilgrims (**Hebrews 11:13-16; Ephesians 2:11-22; Philippians 3:20**)

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## Conclusion

One fundamental truth about the Christian in the marketplace is that he is an ambassador of Christ, and ought to conduct himself as one (**2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 11:29; Ephesians 4:17-24**)!