

THE PEOPLE OF GOD

By Rev. G. A. Rogers over CJLS, Yarmouth, N.S., Nov. 26, 1936

Good morning listening friends. I want to talk to you today on the theme, "The People of God." The words are found in 1 Peter 2:10. Were we to study a people or a race we should know something about their country, climate, wealth, numbers, looks, occupation, and characteristics. In studying God's people we cannot confine our survey to one country, but we must look "from the rivers to the ends of the earth." We are forced to scan sacred and secular history from the beginning to the end of time. This takes in all that have made the portals and all that shall make the portals of the Glory Land. There shall be people of every kindred and yet there shall be characteristics common to all.

I. They are a Selected or Chosen People. (1 Peter 2:9, Eph. 1:4). They were chosen of God, chosen in Christ, chosen before the foundation of the world, chosen under spiritual blessing in the counsel chambers of eternity, and chosen for the specific purpose that they shall be holy and without blame before him in love. (Eph. 1:4).

II.—They are a Saved People. They are saved by the love of God, the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary, the power of the Gospel, the ministry of the Spirit, and their own belief and acceptance of Christ and His salvation. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." They are saved from the presence and power of sin, and from the penalty of sin hereafter. They are saved to the way of life and salvation and shall be saved to Heaven eternally if they are true to God.

III. They are a Separated People. They are separated from sinful places and practices. They are separated from presence, principle, power, pollution, practice and peril of evil doers. They are non-conductors of evil. The connection has been broken. Then again, God's people are not made of the right material to conduct evil.

IV. They are a Cleansed or a Sanctified People. The character of God demands that His people be holy. The atmosphere of Heaven and the nature of Christ, our Bridegroom, demand it. The work of the Holy Spirit and our acceptance with God demand it. His Word commands it and Christ prayed for it. (John 17). Redemption demands it and provides it.

V. They are a Sealed People. Sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise. Sealed so that they won't get sour or bitter. Sealed against outside elements. Sealed for Heaven. The only one that can break the seal is the one within. We are admonished not to grieve the Spirit whereby we are sealed.

VI. They are a Spiritual People. They have lost their desire for the sinful and they have found a new desire for the things that pertain to godliness. They have been connected to the Heavenly dynamo and they have set up in them that power by the incoming of the Holy Spirit that energizes their life and directs it in the ways of God.

VII. They are a Strong People. Not because they are possessors of more wealth, because in most of instances the opposite is true. Not because of their numbers for in most every place they are outnumbered. Not because of a weak foe for their enemy is a mighty one. Not because of a great supply of carnal weapons, but it is because they have within them One who is greater than he that is in the world. Thus it can be said concerning the Christians that "they can

do all things through Christ" and "are more than conquerors through Him."

VIII. They are a Superior or Special People. (a) Royal in their relation. They belong to the aristocracy of Heaven. They are sons of God and have a right to the throne or to sit down with Christ upon the throne. They are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

(b) Peculiar in their position. They were purchased by blood. They are priestly in office, pure in character, praising in testimony, and princely in the prospects of glory.

IX. God's people are a Serving People. They are saved to serve. They will do it at the cost of sacrifice. They will spend time waiting to find out the will of God (time well spent). They will spend time praying for others and laboring for others. They will sacrifice of their means. They know how to give systematically, freely, joyfully to the work of God. If they had the money spent by the world they could do wonders. They will sacrifice their lives in service in the homeland and in the foreign field. The saints of the O.T. and the apostles of the N.T. suffered. Christ suffered at the hands of a world of bitter hatred. Christians today may suffer through misunderstanding. They can expect suffering in a world that is no friend of grace. They can say, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and external weight of glory."

X. God's people are a Soul-Saving People. They have a God who never changes, a Bible that never loses its power, and a Christ that never fails. They have a love for God, for their brothers in Christ, and a great love and passion for unsaved souls everywhere. They are wielding an influence for good consciously and unconsciously. The people of God have warned souls, yearned for them, wept over them, and pointed them to Christ and Calvary. They are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Had God's true people been moved from the earth the world would have been left in spiritual darkness and decomposition. They have kept back the hand of God from destroying a wicked world before this, and have kept alive the spiritual life of the land. They still have the mighty weapon of prayer that will move the arm of God, rock the enemy's strongholds and truly change things for the good of mankind. God's people haven't a stronger weapon than that of effectual fervent prayer.

XI. They are a Sky-Bound People. They are the happiest people under pressure. They have the grace of God in their hearts. They have a peace that passeth understanding and a joy that is unspeakable and full of glory. That isn't all. They have a passport to glory. They are bound for the Holy City that is free from sorrow and sin. They feel the pull to go. They will receive the crown that awaits them if they are true and faithful.

WEDDINGS

Cummings—Moir

At the home of the officiating clergyman, Victoria St., Woodstock, N. B., on April 17th, Miss Ethel M. Moir of Temple, N. B., and Mr. Waldo C. Cummings of Canterbury, N. B., were united in marriage.

After several days spent in U. S. A. the happy couple will take up residence at Dow Settlement, N. B., and engage in farming.

A CONTENTED MAN

The contented man is never poor; the discontented never rich.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Eleanor Mattital

Mrs. Eleanor Mattital died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. J. Hayes, Head of Millstream, N. B., April 20, after a period of failing health as a result of old age, being in her 90th year.

Funeral services were held at the home, conducted by Rev. P. W. Briggs, after which the remains were taken to Goshen and interment made in the family lot there. Sister Mattital was a member of the Anglican Church.

She leaves to mourn three daughters, Mrs. J. J. Hayes, Head of Millstream; Mrs. Thompson, Saint John, and Mrs. Phillip White, Newburyport, Mass. To these sorrowing ones we offer our sincere sympathy. P. W. BRIGGS.

Mr. Paul Hallet

The death of Mr. Paul Hallet occurred at his home at Millville. Funeral services were held at the house on Wednesday, April 14th.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to those bereaved.

F. A. ANDERSON.

MOTHER

It seems we scarcely knew her
In her many years on earth
Nor realized until she had gone,
Her wonderous woman's worth.
Too much she gave, too freely toiled
For others all the while,
Too, we blindly let her give
Forgetting thanks or smiles.

Now looking back across the years
Our hearts are wrung with pain,
Remembering the price she paid,
That we her own might gain.
She placed no price upon her deeds
Love prompted every one,
We simply knew, she filled our needs
Until her work was done.

Those toil worn hands had never meant,
So much to us until,
Upon her quiet breast they lay,
So white and cold and still.
What service they have done for us
We never paused to say
Until we missed their ministering
When she had gone away.

The thin grey hair upon her brow
Was like a halo light.
But we had never known it
Till she went away that night.
We longed to tell our love at last
And how we held her dear,
But oh! the hour had glided past
Our words she could not hear.

Heart breaking tears we saw at last,
With vision clear and bright
The beauties of that noble soul
Who went away that night.
With aching hearts we knew too late
There never was another,
So fine and true the whole way through
As she whom we call "Mother."
—Selected by Mrs. Alvin Perry.

EXAGGERATED HAPPINESS

We exaggerate misfortune and happiness alike.
We are never neither so wretched or so happy
as we say we are.—Balzac.