**THE PEOPLE OF GOD [B]**

**Romans 6:15 – 18**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The New Testament employ a wide variety of words and terms describing God’s People.

A. Let’s examine a few of these hoping to renew [our] understanding of how He views [us].

2. These words also communicate much concerning God's Expectations for [us].

 A. Inherent within them is a call to action and a code of ethics.

 1. Race is translated “FAMILY” (Ac 7:13; 13:26).

 A. The church is the FAMILY of God purchased by Christ’s Blood (Ac 20:28).

**BODY:**

**1. DISCIPLES OF CHRIST** (Lk 6:13; 9:18)

 A. A disciple is a learner, a student, a follower.

 1. One who displays discipline.

 B. [We] are called to be disciples of Christ. In doing so [we] are called:

 1. To learn of Him (Mt 11:29)

 2. To walk in the same manner as He Walked (1 Jn 2:6)

 3. To follow in His Steps (1 Pet 2:21)

 4. To walk in Him (Col 2:6)

 C. Disciples “follows the Lamb wherever He Goes” (Rev 14:4).

**2. SAINTS** (Rom 1:7; Php 1:1)

 A. It is important to understand, sainthood is ***NOT*** a title reserved for only a few.

 1. Instead, it is a reference describing ALL of Christ's Disciples.

 C. The word “saint” comes from the word “sanctified”.

 1. “To be set apart for God's usage and service”(exclusively His) for sacred use.

 2. One called of God and holy (*different* in character and conduct).

 A. Ac 16:18; Eph 5:8; Col 1:13

 3. The underserving, yet grateful recipients of God’s LOVE.

**3. PRIESTS (**1 Pet 2:5-9)

 A. Notice Peter’s awareness of the privileges and responsibilities of Israel are transferred

 from the past (Exo 19:6; Isa 43:21) to the church as the People of God in his day.

 1. 2 Cor 4:6; Col 3:12; Rev 1:6

 B. This term is ***NOT*** restricted to a limited few, **BUT** speaks of the role of His Family.

 1. [We] must present our own bodies as living sacrifices (Rom 12:1, 2).

 2. [We] now can pray directly to God through Christ (1 Tim 2:5).

 C. There is ***NO*** clergy-laity dichotomy in the Body [church] of Christ.

 1. The New Testament teaches a priesthood of ALL believers (Mk 16:16).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. The People of God have a High Calling (Php 3:14). It is a Heavenly Calling (Heb 3:1).

2. [We] must strive to walk in the manner worthy of such a calling (Eph 4:1)

 A. After all, [we] are God's People.