



Praise & Worship Music:

Promises (feat. Joe L Barnes & Naomi Raine) | Maverick City Music | TRIBL

<https://youtu.be/q5m09rqOoxE?si=c-H9mEOV3ayKUNpK>

Revelation 19:1 (feat. Naomi Raine & Mav City Gospel Choir) | Maverick City Music | TRIBL

<https://youtu.be/DyzBOu liPw?si=Fja9vww3W9-oLRfQ>

Make it Right (feat. Dante Bowe, Todd Dulaney, & Jekalyn Carr) | Maverick City Music | TRIBL

<https://youtu.be/edaA71kMKgg?si=M5Wn-YFgveL-YEE->

Notes:

2024: Is The Year we Esteem the Word of God Even More! Parts 7 - 9

Our theme or tagline this year - 2024: The Year We Esteem the Word of God Even More

1 Peter 2:5

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, [G2406](#) to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

- To whom does the word “Ye” apply? You and me.

1 Peter 2:9

But **you** are (To whom does YOU apply?) You and me.

a chosen (*eklektos. 1) picked out, chosen. 1a) chosen by God.*) **generation** (Strong's #1085: *genos* (pronounced ghen'-os)

from 1096; "kin" (abstract or concrete, literal or figurative, individual or collective):-- born, country(-man), diversity, generation, kind(-red), nation, offspring, stock.),

a royal (Strong's 934 - *basileios* - **Definition:** *royal* - **Usage:** *courtiers, palaces, a body of kings, royal. – kingly in nature. A word used only twice in the bible.*) Yeshua is the king of kings!

priesthood, Strong's 2406 - *hierateuma* - *the priestly fraternity, i.e. sacerdotal order (figuratively):—priesthood.*

A word used only twice in the bible.

a holy nation,

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His own special people, that you may **proclaim the praises** of Him who called you out of darkness into the His marvelous light.

So, it stands to reason that we have and are (by the Holy Spirit) taking some time to get a deeper, clearer understanding of what it means to “esteem” something or someone. First we looked at the Thesaurus and dictionary for the modern usage of the word. Last week, we moved to the Old Testament to see if there were any significant places where the word “esteem” was used. And to our surprise, each instance tied closely to God’s eternal purpose, His salvation, priestly covenant relationship with His people, both Israel and the Church. If you missed it, the message is available on our website and the CWM App. Thursday evening’s class clarifying and reviewing last week’s message is available upon request.

Now, since we live under a **New, Eternal** Covenant, let’s look to see how and where the word/concept of “esteem” is used in the New Testament.

3049 Logizomai -

Romans 4:11 (This ties to Gen. 15:6 where we saw the word “cha shab” meaning to reckon – the same word used in the Hebrew for “esteem”

And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed G3049 unto them also:

- **This word deals with reality.** It refers more to fact (or in the biblical sense, truth) than supposition or opinion. It’s not about what you personally feel.
- With logizomai, if I reckon that my bank book has \$25,000 in it, it has \$25,000 in it. Otherwise, I am deceiving myself.

2919 Krino (kree-no) – regard or esteem

- **Rom 14:5 KJV**
One man esteemeth ^{G2919} one day above another: another esteemeth ^{G2919} every day alike.
Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

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2233 hēgeomai

- hayg-eh'-om-ah-ee; middle voice of a (presumed) strengthened form of G71; to lead, i.e. command (with official authority); figuratively, to deem, i.e. consider:—account, (be) chief, count, esteem, governor, judge, have the rule over, suppose, think.
- **The KJV translates Strong's G2233 in the following manner:** count (10x), think (4x), esteem (3x), have rule over (3x), be governor (2x), *miscellaneous* (6x).

- **Outline of Biblical Usage**

I. to lead

- A. to go before
- B. to be a leader
 - 1. to rule, command
 - 2. to have authority over
 - 3. a prince, of regal power, governor, viceroy, chief, leading as respects influence, controlling in counsel, overseers or leaders of the churches
 - 4. used of any kind of leader, chief, commander
 - 5. the leader in speech, chief, spokesman

II. to consider, deem, account, think

☐ **Phi 2:3**

Let nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let ^{G2233 →} each *esteem* ^{G2233} other better than themselves.

☐ **1Th 5:13**

And to *esteem* ^{G2233} them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.

☐ **Heb 11:26**

Esteeming ^{G2233 →} the reproach of Christ greater riches than ^{G2233} the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Okay, so the Lord is pointing out to us that You and I, we are a royal priesthood! He, the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob (or Israel), the only true and living God, The God of the universe has made, accounted, reckoned, deemed, and esteemed you a royal priesthood.

So, can you see the need to comprehend what it means to highly esteem? If we are going to see ourselves the way God sees us, we have to begin in the proper place.

You may be asking why the need to be so granular about this priesthood thing? There is a big problem.

Some see this royal priesthood thing as a “figure of speech,” such as a metaphor (which is a figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison.)



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Those who see it that way think that we (as a whole, as a body of believers) haven't actually been made a priesthood. They consider that position was reserved for a select few whom God chose to use to help the body of Christ mature and relate to God better.

I told you before that it's treated as though the writer was just making a point based on the old covenant practices.

They see it as simply ceremonial, as a position, function, or event that's representative of an institution, but has very little authority or influence.

Like a ceremonial role only, not with executive power. A system of rules and procedures to be observed at a formal or religious occasion, a rite, a ceremony.

Some examples include:

- Throwing out the first pitch at a baseball game (Like the President, a child from the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Jeff Bezos (the richest man in the world))
- The queen christening a new cruise ship or battleship (We know she didn't build it)
- Cutting the ribbon on a new
- Breaking Ground on a new building – shoveling the first patch of dirt for a photo op definitely isn't the same as actually building the edifice.
 - Story of Church that broke ground years ago when Dale and I visited. They've been collecting money for years and now we were informed the grass has grown back over the area where they first broke ground.

The priesthood has been reduced to a meaning far below what God intended. Remember, the old was a type and shadow of what was to come, the priesthood associated with eternal covenant that we now live under. A vital part of your salvation.

Why is this priesthood designation seen as just a metaphor, words used merely to make a point?

Perhaps (this is just my opinion) it's derived from the Catholic Church, as some studies say the largest Christian institution (though I'm not certain how accurate they are since they extrapolate this info from a small sample and then apply to the masses).

Most news media go to them (the Pope/Catholic Church) when they want to have someone speak for the church at large. With that, the world and many in the church see the priest, pastor and preacher or spiritual leader as the same.

The Catholic Church makes a distinction between the "Priests" and the "lay people." According to the dictionary, a **lay person** is a person who is not trained, qualified, or experienced in a particular subject or activity.



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- The New Testament knows nothing of a sacerdotal class in contrast to the laity; all believers are commanded to offer the sacrifices mentioned in Rom. 12:1; Phil. 2:17; 4:18; Heb. 13:15, 16; 1 Pet. 2:5; (Vines Expository Dictionary, 1984, pg. 486)

So, some people associate the word “priest” with “preacher” and/or “clergy.” But is there a difference? Where the new testament or new covenant is concerned, is the royal priesthood synonymous with our definition and view of the modern-day church leader?

Confusing the “Five-fold Ministry” with the “Royal Priesthood”

In the Greek, are the words interchangeable?

Ephesians 4:1-16

⁴ I, therefore, the prisoner ^[a]of the Lord, ^[b]beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² **with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,** ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in ^[c]you all.

Spiritual Gifts

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸ Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men.”

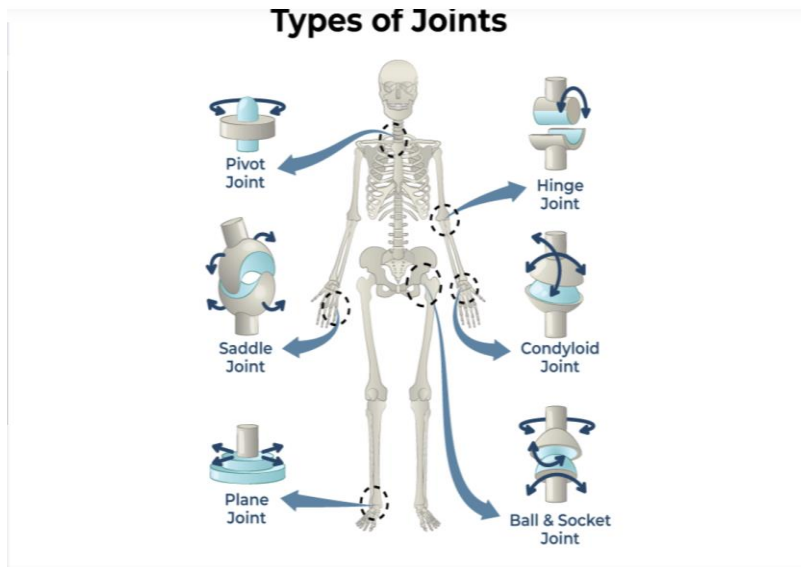
⁹ (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also ^[d]first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, **that He might fill all things.**.)

¹¹ And He Himself gave **some** *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry (or service), for the ^[e]edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what **every joint supplies**, according to the

effective working **by which every part does its share**, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Every joint supplieth:

A joint is the part of the body where two or more bones meet to allow movement. Every bone in the body – except for the hyoid bone in the throat – meets up with at least one other bone at a joint. The shape of a joint depends on its function. A joint is also known as an articulation. And there are different types of joints.



<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/joints>

Generally speaking, the more movement that is possible through a joint, the higher the risk of injury. This is because greater range of movement reduces the strength of the joint.

Types of joints

Joints are described by how much movement they allow. The three broad classes of joints include:

- Immovable – the two or more bones are in close contact, but no movement can occur – for example, the bones of the skull. The joints of the skull are called sutures.
- Slightly movable – two or more bones are held together so tightly that only limited movement is permitted – for example, the vertebrae of the spine.
- Freely movable – most joints within the human body are this type. Motion is the purpose of the joint.

Where and how you have been placed in the body of Christ matters.

Freely moving joints

The six types of freely movable joint include:

- Ball and socket joint – the rounded head of one bone sits within the cup of another, such as the hip joint or shoulder joint. Movement in all directions is allowed.
- Saddle joint – this permits movement back and forth and from side to side, but does not allow rotation, such as the joint at the base of the thumb.
- Hinge joint – the two bones open and close in one direction only (along one plane) like a door, such as the knee and elbow joints.
- Condylloid joint – this permits movement without rotation, such as in the jaw or finger joints.
- Pivot joint – one bone swivels around the ring formed by another bone, such as the joint between the first and second vertebrae in the neck.
- Gliding joint – or plane joint. Smooth surfaces slip over one another, allowing limited movement, such as the wrist joints.

Types of movement

To achieve movement, the joint may:

- Slide one broad and flat surface across another – examples include the bones in the wrist or ankle.
- Increase or decrease the angle between the two bones – this only occurs in the long bones of the body (arms and legs): for example, when the arm is bent or extended.
- Allow a circular movement – this is how ball and socket joints work: for example, the shoulder.
- Allow rotation without displacing the bones: for example, the head as it turns from side to side swivels the cervical vertebrae on top of one another.

Structure of a joint

Joints are held together and supported by tough bands of connective tissue called ligaments. Smooth cartilage prevents friction as the bones move against one another. In freely movable joints, the entire joint is enclosed inside a membrane filled with lubricating synovial fluid, which helps to provide extra cushioning against impact.

Muscles are attached to bones with thick, tough bands of connective tissue called tendons. Where tendons lie close to bone, tiny sacs called bursae sit between the tendon and the bone to reduce friction. A bursa is filled with synovial fluid.

Joint conditions

Common causes of joint pain include:

- [arthritis](#) – inflammation that causes stiffness and pain in the joints (rheumatoid arthritis or gout) or degeneration (osteoarthritis)
- [bursitis](#) – inflammation of the bursae (fluid-filled sacs that cushion and pad bones)
- [infection](#) – within the joint
- [tendonitis](#) – inflammation, irritation and swelling of a tendon that is attached to the joint.

- injury – including sprain or strain of a ligament or nearby tendon or muscle, or bone fracture.

Sadly, in many instances, the joints in church are operating like the physical joint conditions, inflamed with issues and pains that get passed along to the Body of Christ.

We know from the Scriptures that this, inflammation, is something that was under the curse associated with the Law that was given to Israel at Sinai, as noted in Deu 28:22 (NKJV):

The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish.

We also know **Christ has redeemed from the curse, being made a curse for us** for it is written cursed in everyone that hangs on a tree.

Everyone in the body of Christ has a part to play. Thus, the joints are nothing alone; they cannot function without the rest of the body.

So, the Scripture says “He Gave gifts to men” – “And He Himself gave **SOME to be”**

- **Apostle** – Gr. 652 – Apostolos
 - From 649 – Apostello (focuses back to *the source* (the one sending), strongly connecting *the sender to the one sent* (His mission);
 - A delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ ("apostle") (with miraculous powers):--apostle, messenger, he that is sent.
 - **Definition:** a messenger, one sent on a mission, an apostle
Usage: a messenger, envoy, delegate, one commissioned by another to represent him in some way, especially a man sent out by Jesus Christ Himself to preach the Gospel; an apostle.
- **Prophet** – Gr. 4396 – *prophétés* (prof-ay'-tace)
 - **Definition:** a prophet (an interpreter or forth-teller of the divine will)
Usage: a prophet, poet; a person gifted at expositing divine truth.
- **Evangelist** – Gr. 2099 – *euaggelistés* (yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace')
 - **Definition:** an evangelist, a bringer of good news
Usage: an evangelist, a missionary, bearer of good tidings.
- **Pastor** – Gr. 4166 - *poimén*, (poy-mane')
 - I. a herdsman, esp. a shepherd
 - a. in the parable he to whose care and control others have committed themselves, and whose precepts they follow
 - II. Metaphorically
 - a. The presiding officer, manager, director, of any assembly: so of Christ the Head of the church

- Of the overseers of the Christian assemblies
 - Of kings and princes
 - b. [Hebrews 13:20](#) (KJV) Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great **shepherd** of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
 - c. Of the Jewish Messiah, [Ezekiel 34:23](#) - And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.
 - d. Translated "Pastor" in one verse: Ephesians 4:11 – He gave some...pastors
- **Teacher** – Gr. 1320

In the interest of time, let's look at the word "Teacher"

Matthew 23:1-12

Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees

1Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, **2**saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. **3**Therefore whatever they tell you [**a**]to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. **4**For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. **5**But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. **6**They love the [**b**]best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, **7**greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' **8**But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your [**c**]Teacher, [**d**]the Christ, and **you are all brethren**. **9**Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

10And do not be called **teachers (Rabbi) 4561**;

- 4461 *rhabbí*— a rabbi; a *teacher-scholar* recognized by the Jewish public for accumulating a great number of Bible-facts, i.e. respected for his accumulation of knowledge.
- [4461 (*rhabbí*)] literally means "great in number," probably referring to the *great number* of facts (Bible knowledge) acquired by a *rabbi*. See OT 7727a (*rab*).
- "*Rabbi*" literally means, " 'My *great* one; my honorable sir.' Explained by Jesus himself as (1320 /*didáskalos*), 'teacher' (Mt 23:8), . . . Used by the Jews in addressing their teachers, and formed from a Hebrew root meaning '*great*' " (*WS*, 403).]



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for One is your **Teacher**, the Christ.

- **2519** *kathēgētēs* (from [2596](#) /*katá* "down" and [2233](#) /*hēgēomai*, "to lead") – properly, a *leader*; someone bringing others "down the road of learning" by giving needed *instruction*; a *master-teacher*. (In Modern Greek this term refers to a "professor," *Abbott-Smith*.)
- **Cognate: 1320** *didáskalos* (a masculine noun derived from [1321](#) /*didáskō*, "to teach") – a teacher, an instructor acknowledged for their mastery in their field of learning; in Scripture, a Bible teacher, competent in theology. [See 1319](#) (*didaskalia*).

11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your **servant**.

12 And whoever exalts himself will be **humbled**, and he who humbles himself will be **exalted**.

- **Priest** – Gr. *Hiereus* – (hee-er-yooce') 2409 "one who offers sacrifice and has the charge of things pertaining thereto,"
 - *Archiereus* (ar-khee-er-yuce') – designates
 - a. "the high priests" of the Levitical order, frequently called "chief priests" in the New Testament, and including "ex-high priests" and members of "high priestly" families, e.g. Matt. 2:4; 16:21; 20:18; 21:15
 - b. Christ is set forth in this respect in the Ep. To the Hebrews, where He is spoken of as a "high priest," 4:15; 5:5, 10; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1, 3 (RV); 9:11; "a great high priest," 4:14; "a great priest," 10:21; "a merciful and faithful high priest," 2:17; "The Apostle and High Priest of our confession," 3:1, RV; "a high priest after the order of Melchizedek," 5:10

W.E. Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words supports what I have learned from the Scriptures: Of believers (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6), he writes,



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- Israel was primarily designed as a nation to be a kingdom of “priests,” offering service to God, e.g., **Ex. 19:6** – start at v. 3;
- the Israelites having renounced their obligations, Ex. 20:19, the Aaronic priesthood was selected for the purpose, till Christ came to fulfill His ministry in offering up Himself;
- Since then, the Jewish priesthood has been abrogated, to be resumed nationally, on behalf of Gentiles, in the millennial kingdom when Jesus physically sits on the throne of David, (Is. 61:6; 66:21).

(Sandra: Note here that there are those who treat the second part of that statement [the millennial kingdom] as allegorical, metaphoric, or just a figure of speech. They don’t believe Jesus will return and actually physically sit on David’s throne for 1,000 years in Jerusalem. They are amillennialistic.)

- Meanwhile, until Jesus returns physically to reign for 1,000 years, all believers, both from Jews and Gentiles, are constituted “a kingdom of priests,” **Rev. 1:6**, “a holy priesthood,” 1 Pet. 2:5, and “royal,” v. 9, through whom the Lord currently reigns.

Revelation 1:6 –

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

During our Thursday night bible study, I asked the question, “Are all believers in Christ ministers?”

Hebrews 8:3-5 English Standard Version 2016 (ESV)

For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer.

Hebrews 8:4-5 English Standard Version 2016 (ESV)

Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law.

- Previously, I had you to go to Malachi 1.
- What are we talking about: esteeming the Word of God even more.
- The earthly priests mentioned in Hebrews 3 were the subject of this chapter. In fact, the entire book was directed to the Levitical Priests to whom God posed several questions. The one you probably know best is the one that is most used or asked: Will a man rob God?
- Well, that wasn’t the first question that God asked His priests. God’s focus initially was on how His priests related to Him, how they viewed and revered Him, how they esteemed Him.



If there is a High Priest, you also have priests who serve God in the temple (Today, you are the temple of God. We have this treasure in earthen vessels.)

First Minister to Him

Romans 8:29

New American Standard Bible

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers *and sisters*;

Hebrews 13:15

¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually **offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, ^[d]giving thanks to His name.** ¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Romans 12:1-2

12 I beseech^[a] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your ^[a]reasonable service.** ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all things; for this is the will of God concerning you in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your request to God.