

"The Dwelling of God"
(Ephesians 2:19-22)

Now that you have been reconciled to God, in Christ you have become one brick in the much larger edifice of God's holy temple.

I. You Have Been Built Upon a Holy Foundation.

A. Context. ***(So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household).***

1. Gentiles were strangers to the covenants of promise
2. They were alienated from God's redemptive agency.
3. But in Christ they are joined with God's saints.
4. In Christ they all are reconciled to God.
5. By means of abolishing the law, by fulfilling it.
6. Paul illustrates this by means of an analogy.
 - a. That of a city.
 - b. That of a family.
 - c. That of a building.

7. The building is the invisible church.
 - a. Not the Theocracy.
 - b. But the company of the redeemed.

B. Upon The Apostles and Prophets. ***(Having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets).***

1. Who are the apostles and prophets?
 - a. This refers to those of the New Dispensation.
 - (i) Word order.
 - (ii) Ephesians 3:5.

 - b. Apostles are personally commissioned by Christ.
 - (i) Teachers with infallible authority.
 - (ii) Supreme power as rulers in His Church.

 - c. Prophets also gave revelation and explained the truth.
 - (i) The prophets were also teachers.
 - (ii) From time to time they spoke by the Spirit.
 - (iii) To proclaim God's truth was to prophesy.

2. In what sense are they the foundation?
 - a. They laid the foundational doctrine of the Church.
 - (i) The Church is founded on truth.
 - (ii) It is the depository of God's truth <2 Tim. 1:13f>.
 - (iii) It is to teach others <2 Tim. 2:2>.
 - (iv) This is why it is important to stress the truth.
 - (v) To distinguish between true and false church.
 - (vi) Man's sinfulness tends to error.
 - (vii) "No churches boast more loudly of the name than those which bear a false and empty title; as may

be seen in our own times" [Calvin 21:242).

- b. Once laid, the office was no longer necessary.
 - (i) We have received **the faith** once delivered <Jude 3>.
 - (ii) In Acts 15 we see the **authority shift**.
 - (iii) It shows the normalcy of elder rule.

C. Christ Jesus is the Corner Stone. (***Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone***).

1. What is a corner stone?
 - a. The stone first placed at the corner of a building.
 - b. It helps to keep all the other in perfect line.
2. Why is Christ called the corner stone?
 - a. He is the foundation of the foundation.
 - (i) His work makes the Church possible.
 - (ii) Everything depends on Him.
 - (iii) Without Him there'd be no apostles and prophets.
 - (iv) He sent them <4:11>.
 - b. He is the object of faith.
 - (i) He is the only entry.
 - (ii) You must look to Him to be saved.
 - c. He is a stone of testing <Isaiah 28:16>.
 - (i) By which men will be tested.
 - (ii) Some will take offense, others find a foundation.
 - d. He alone is the rule and standard of faith.
 - (i) He is the standard of truth.
 - (ii) He is the truth.

11. In Christ You Are Being Built into a Dwelling of God.

A. The Saints Are Growing into a Holy Temple. (***In whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord***).

1. Everything depends upon union with the Corner Stone.
 - a. You must be "in Christ" to be part of the building.
 - b. In Christ you are a living brick.
2. Being in Christ means union with the rest of the saints.
 - a. You are fitted together.
 - b. This is the basis of Christian unity.
 - c. You are members of one household, one body.
3. It is a continual process.
 - a. The temple continues to grow.
 - b. With a growth which comes from the Lord.
 - (i) Acts 2:47 The Lord was adding daily.
 - (ii) 1 Cor. 3:6 Planted, watered, God causes growth.

4. The result is a **holy** temple.
 - a. The holy God dwells in His NT Temple.
 - (i) *Naos* refers to the inner shrine.
 - (ii) No longer a holy place of stone and wood.
 - (iii) God dwells in His people <1 Cor. 3:16-17>.
 - b. Because of this, God demands that you be holy.
 - (i) Holiness is separateness.
 - (ii) Separate from the world, and to God.
 - (iii) You are His servant, to serve Him alone.
 - (iv) All you do either serves self or God.
 - (v) All should be done for His glory.
- B. With Whom You Too Are the Dwelling Place of God. (*In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit*).
1. In Christ, you have been added to this edifice.
 - a. The Gentile has been added to the company of saints.
 - b. You, who trust in Christ, are part of that building.
 2. God dwells in you by His Spirit.
 - a. The Father, Christ and the Spirit all dwell in you.
 - b. But specifically by His Spirit He does.
 3. The Church is a community of believers.
 - a. Christianity is not an individualistic matter.
 - b. Rather we are a body, a community.
 4. The Spirit is the One who adds you to the edifice.
 - a. He is the divine applier of Christ's work.
 - b. He is gathering human bricks to complete it.
 - c. He knows the elect for He is God.
 5. The building will be completed.
 - a. It continues to grow until the final bricks are added.
 - b. Revelation 21 speaks of the finished bride of Christ.
 - c. When the fullness of Jews and Gentiles have come in.
 - d. Then will be glorious consummation.

Conclusion:

1. Are you a part of that building this evening?
2. You may be a part of the visible church, but are you really in Christ?
3. If **so** you may rejoice in that glorious future.
4. If not, come to Christ now.
5. There is no other means of salvation.
6. Amen. Let us pray.