

8.04.19 ~ God's Building Project, Ephesians 2:19-22...

Read Ephesians 2:19-22... Paul continues a discussion that started in **verse 11**, about the unity God desires to be effectual between Gentile and Jew. Using common metaphors, Paul illustrates how we are many parts but one whole, we are all members of God's family, through Christ, for we are:

Fellow citizens (see **Philippians 3:20**), all believers are part of God's kingdom.

Members of God's household (see **Galatians 6:10**), members of one spiritual family, based on faith in Christ.

A holy temple in the Lord (see **1Corinthians 3:16**), all believers are a dwelling place for God's Spirit (see **Ephesians 1:13-14; 1Corinthians 12:12-13**).

God loves His people and He has initiated a building project through which our relationship to Him is clearly expressed, our citizenship is firmly established and God is honored, praised, worshipped, and glorified.

According to **Ephesians 2:20**, the citizenship we have been granted through Christ, is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets; and Jesus Christ Himself is the chief corner stone of this foundation.

Isaiah wrote (**Isaiah 28:16**), "Therefore thus says the Lord God, 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed" [lit. will not be in a hurry; but instead will be settled, secure].

The Psalmist wrote (**Psalms 118:22**), "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner [or "head" stone] (see **1Peter 2:1-10**).

Jesus Christ is the **chief cornerstone** [HEAD OF THE CORNER STONE - the stone which supports every part of the building, and to which every stone in the building is aligned] i.e., strength, stability, symmetry.

One such cornerstone in a quarry in the Middle East, was sixty-nine feet by twelve feet by thirteen feet, and there are many such large foundation stones. Once a large cornerstone was obtained, moved and placed in position, the rest of the building would be determined and all the stones would be aligned toward and supported by that **chief cornerstone**.

Notice again (see **Ephesians 2:21-22**), Jesus Christ is the chief stone, the head of the corner stone; He is also the Head of the building, this holy temple or dwelling place of God (the Church), of which we, God's people, are living stones, i.e., individual members of the body of Christ.

The meaning of the word **dwelling (verse 22)** carries with it the idea of a permanent home, in which God dwells [or inhabits] by His Spirit. This is not talking about a physical building made of stone, for God doesn't live in rocks, but He does take up permanent residence in His people, through the indwelling of His Spirit.

This is part of the mystery made known to us in and through Christ, as we have already studied (see **Ephesians 1:9-10, 13-14; 2:8-10**).

The Holy Spirit, indwelling each individual believer, places us in the Body of Christ, the Church, the supernatural spiritual body that is made up of all those who belong to God through Christ, for the purpose of proclaiming Christ [God the Son], while glorifying God the Father, made effectual by God the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:18, says, "He [Christ] is the head of the body, the church."
1Corinthians 12:12, says, "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ," (**1Corinthians 12:18**), "But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired," (**1Corinthians 12:27**), "Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it," (**Colossians 1:18**), "He [Christ] is head of the body, the church."

This Body, the Church, is God's dwelling, being built upon, and aligned to Jesus Christ, who is the chief cornerstone of this building, which is made up of each true believer and follower of Jesus.

This dwelling is God's holy temple on earth, built and inhabited by God, for God's glory, (**1Peter 2:5**), "you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

This is all God's plan, purpose and provision through Christ (**Titus 2:14**), "who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."

2Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Before we were saved, we were separated from God by sin - we didn't know Him and we couldn't do anything to please Him; in fact, we couldn't do anything 'good' in God's sight.

But now, as God's children (**Ephesians 2:10**), "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

The truth is, every genuine born-again believer and follower of Christ, is a part of this building. This is God's ultimate building project: a spiritual building, a holy dwelling inhabited by God through His Spirit-- and all this for the purpose of bringing honor and glory to Both the Father and the Son, while also providing a personal, intimate, growing and eternal relationship between God and His people, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

And all God's people said? Amen!

Pastor Mike
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