

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 2:19-22**.
- B. God's holy building today, is the church. We as the church form a structure most glorious. we should never think lightly of the church of Christ.
- C. The church is the most beautiful of all buildings (Rev. 21:9-27).
- D. The building of God is constantly being built. We need to look at some of the wonderful attributes of it.

I. IT BELONGS TO GOD.

- A. There is not one specific name for the church. All are descriptive of what the church is. One such phrase shows that the church belongs to God, and this title does not refer to a denomination (1Tim. 3:5).
- B. Paul, in speaking about how one waters, another plants, but God gives the increase says that His field and His building from which He works is the church (1Cor. 3:9).
(Bricks, mortar, and stone never make up the church. Traditions about what one can and cannot do with the physical building are of opinion and not of faith.)
- C. God dwells in Xians, in the church. Just as the temple was the dwelling of God in the OT, the church (not building) is the dwelling of God in the NT (Eph. 2:22; 1Cor. 3:16).
- D. When we talk about the dwelling place of God, we are talking about the sanctuary. The church building's auditorium is not the sanctuary. A sanctuary is a dwelling place; an inner room. It was the Holy of Holies in the temple:
 - 1. Jesus said "destroy this sanctuary..." speaking of His body (Jn. 2:18-22).
 - 2. A "holy temple" not a building (Eph. 2:19-22).
 - 3. No sanctuary because all is sanctuary (Rev. 22:21).

II. IT IS BUILT ON CHRIST.

- A. As everyone knows, a good foundation is essential to the strength and stability of any building. The church is a building whose foundation is the best; JC (1Cor. 3:11; Heb. 7:16; i.e. the power of an indestructible life).
- B. It is upon the fact that Jesus is the Son of god that the church rests. This is the foundational teaching upon which the church is built (Mt. 16:16-18).
- C. It is foolish to build on any other foundation (Eph. 2:20; Mt. 7:24-27).

III. IT IS FASHIONED ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT.

- A. In Eph. 2:22 says that the HS has something to do with this great building.
- B. In the first Corinthian letter we see the HS giving gifts for the mutual building up of the brethren (1Cor. 12:7).
- C. We also know that spiritual things play a big role in what goes on in God's building. All sacrifices that are offered are to be spiritual ones (1Pet. 2:5; Rom. 12:1,2).

IV. IT IS THE PILLAR AND SUPPORT OF THE TRUTH.

- A. The apostle Paul calls the church the "pillar and support of the truth." This is true because if the church does not support the truth who will? (1Tim. 3:15).
- B. It is the church that is the manifold wisdom of God, and it is the task of the church to preach the gospel to the world. The truth is in the hands of those who obey and speak the word (Eph. 3:10; Jude 3).
- C. The church is preserved by the truth, as it preaches the truth, and will then, someday be presented to God (Eph. 5:26).

- D. Our knowledge of the truth is therefore, paramount in our being the type of building that God wants us to be:
 - 1. Like a lawyer, be able to defend a case (1Pet. 3:15).
 - 2. Grow in grace and knowledge (2Pet. 3:18).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We are the building, the sanctuary of God, by which God can save the world through His Son.
- B. We must therefore strive to be pleasing unto God so that He can effectively work through us.
- C. Let us remember these things about God's holy building (the church):
 - 1. It belongs to Him.
 - 2. It is built on Christ.
 - 3. It is fashioned according to the Spirit.
 - 4. It is the pillar and support of the truth.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.