

## Being Built into a Spiritual House

Our theme for 2008: Building on the firm foundations.

There are various stages to building a building.

- 1) Planning – What is the purpose of the building?
- 2) Foundations – Need to be firm and strong.
- 3) Building the building.
- 4) Using the building for the purpose for which it was built.

The difference when building the house of the Lord is that we are building with living stones and all stages are always in progress.

Those who are in stages 3 and 4 ought to be discipling those in stages 1 and 2 etc.

We aren't in this for ourselves but for each other.

1 Peter 2: 1 – 10

- 1) We need to grow up in our salvation (2: 1 – 3)
  - The things that Peter exhorts us to get rid of are relationship issues.
    - You can't have malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander unless there are others involved.
  - Spiritual immaturity isn't manifest merely in our personal character but also in our relationships with others.
  - We need to crave pure spiritual milk for the purpose of growing up – maturing – in our salvation.
  - When we are born again we have a taste of the goodness of the Lord. That tasting ought to have created a greater desire for more of Him.
  - It is when we feed on Him that we grow up in our salvation.
  - People ran after Jesus searching for him, crossing lakes to find him, not thinking of their food, and not considering what others might think just to have some more of Jesus had to offer.
  - Is our religion an outer show – and optional appendage to our lives – or is it a genuine desire for more of Jesus.
  - Jesus is the foundation on who the spiritual house is being built.
    - 1 Corinthians 3: 11 “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
    - He is the chief cornerstone – Ephesians 2: 20
    - Hymn “On Christ the solid Rock we stand, all other ground is sinking sand”
  - If Jesus removed his presence from our lives would our lives stay the same? If so then we ought to question our present relationship with Him.
- 2) We are being built into a spiritual house (2: 4 – 8)
  - How are we being built into a spiritual house?
    - “As we come to Him, the living Stone” (v.4)
    - It as we all unitedly come to Him, in a desire for more of Him we are drawn to one another.
    - The spiritual house that is being built is not of brick and cement but of living stones.
    - We are the living stones – Jesus is the main living Stone
  - Peter is using the terminology of the temple.
    - The Temple was called the house of God.
  - He was referring to us building our own spiritual houses although both are applicable
    - Individually our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit – 1 Corinthians 6: 19
    - Corporately, as a church, we are the temple in the Lord – Ephesians 2: 21

- The temple is the place where sacrifices are offered to the Lord
  - We are to offer spiritual sacrifices
  - In Romans 12: 1 Paul exhorts us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices.
  - GOD EXPECTS SACRIFICES not for atonement but out of gratitude for what he has done. We cannot add to Christ sacrifice for atonement of our sins.
- God rebuked His people through the prophet Haggai for taking care of their own houses whilst the house of the Lord was in ruin:
  - Haggai 1: 2 – 9
  - If we take care of ourselves God can withhold his provision. He calls us to seek first his kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to us.
- Let us be part of what God is doing in building a spiritual house
- Bricks that aren't used in the building are thrown onto the rubble heap and then taken to be dumped/scrapped/to serve no purpose.

### 3) Called to be for a purpose (2: 9 – 10)

- We are:
  - a chosen people
  - a royal priesthood
  - a holy nation
  - a people – a community – belonging to God
- That we may (our purpose):
  - declare the praises of God
  - Testify to his grace that he:
    - ◆ called us out of darkness into his wonderful light
    - ◆ made us His people when we were once not his people
    - ◆ received mercy when once we had not received mercy.
  - <sup>PS 96:3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.