

CALL to PRAYER*Ephesians 2:19-22 - The Church is a BUILDING*

INTRO - *Ecclesiology part 2*. Ecclesiology = study of the church. *Ekklesia* = “called out ones.” The *church* are the ones who have been *Called*...called out from the world...answered the call. The *church* is a group of *BELIEVERS* who the Bible describes as a *BUILDING*, *BODY* & a *BRIDE*. Last week we introduced *the church* as a group of believers...*a people-group* who are a peculiar group that believes a particular message. The church is an *assembled group*...gathered family that share a common citizenry. They are also a *mixed group* for not everyone on the roll is real. They are one universal group (*one group*) with a bunch of local “groupings” meeting places. Today we consider the church described as a *BUILDING*. A building has a *Builder/Architect*. A building has a *Foundation*. A building has a *Structure*. A building has an *Occupant/Purpose*

The CHURCH is a BUILDING

- The scriptures depict the church as a *STRUCTURE*.
 - Eph. 2:19-21 - the people of God are described as a *building*...*a temple*
 - The household of God is also a *HOUSE*...a house for God
 - 1 Peter 2:5 - “*you...are living stones...being built up as a spiritual house...*”
- We often associate the “church” with the church building.
 - “*Lets go to church*” meaning the address (that’s ok, but not the ultimate meaning)
 - The address is just where *The Called / The Church* are assembled
 - The address is important.... but the church-building just *houses* the true building
 - The *assembled* ARE the building. *The Called* are constructed into a house
- 1 Cor. 3:9, 16-17
 - We are God’s building! (bunch of blockheads? ;-)

A BUILDING has a BUILDER

1. The universe wasn’t built by a mindless big bang...the church didn’t just happen to be...
 - a. It was built! (and we didn’t build it)
2. Jesus Christ is the constructor of the Church....He is the builder
 - a. Matt. 16:18 “*I will build My church...*”
 - b. Heb. 3:1-6 - we are *the called*...we are a *the house*...the Son is *The Builder*
 - i. Jesus is the *Author / Finisher* of our faith - & - *Architect / Builder* of church
3. Pastors are just part of the church that Jesus is building. (not “my church”)
 - a. An under-shepherd’s role is to build up the faith of the church Jesus is building
 - b. We may plant churches (local assemblies) but only Christ builds the church

A BUILDING has a FOUNDATION

The foundation of the church consist of: A Footing, An Integrated Slab, Piers & Stamps

- Eph. 2:20 - The church is built **by** Jesus and **on** Jesus
- Christ is the CORNERSTONE of the church. Symbolic/structural The church rests on Him
 - Jesus is *the footing* that supports the whole building (image of footing section)
 - The footing sets the parameters of the building
 - Jesus is the layout. We don't go outside of Jesus
 - The footing is the solid security and stability of the building
 - "*The Church's One Foundation...*"
- The footing is firm. The Cornerstone is set and secure
 - Isaiah 28:16 it is firm and can be trusted
 - Footing is also firm and cannot be moved - Is. 8:14-15 (1 Peter 2:8) Messiah ~~malleable~~
 - Many stumble over the immovable cornerstone of Christ - Psalm 118:22-23
- The footing is not the final foundation... it is the main support, but there is more support
 - Eph. 2:20
 - The apostles and prophets are the *integrated slab* connected to the cornerstone
 - The building of the church is built upon the apostles and prophets
 - Protestants don't like the Roman catholic interpretation of Matt. 16:18
 - Catholics are wrong in succession but right in foundation
 - Apostolic authority is foundational
 - Luke 10:16 1 Cor. 14:37 1 John 4:6 Rev. 21:14
 - "Red Letter Christians" are building on another foundation because they reject apostolic authority as being Christ's authority. ("It's only Paul")
 - Jesus is joined to His apostles in the foundation. The re-bar runs thru it
- The church has only one foundation
 - The church is not a sub-division with many separate foundations
 - Catholic or Protestant Denom. or Non-denom. Baptist or Methodist
 - Local churches look different, but they should all have the same foundation
 - Christ is building but one church on one foundation...are we in it/on it?
- The church's foundation has piers/pillars in it
 - 1 Tim. 3:15 "...*the pillar and support of the truth.*"
 - Demo of restroom concrete - thickened area with extra re-bar
 - Only a small % of churches believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God
 - Only a small % are real churches. Off the foundation and built on sand
 - "*How Firm a Foundation ye saint of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent word*" (John 17:17)
 - God's word/truth support the church and the church is to support the truth
- The church's foundation also has a STAMP/SEAL on it
 - Seal on our parking lot - *Connelly 1959.* My street has a stamp - *WPA 1936*
 - 2 Tim. 2:19 God's foundation has two seals
 - "*The Lord knows those who are His*"
 - God has got His people...they are secure
 - "*Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness*"
 - God's people are a holy people. Walk worthy of calling
- Buildings can take longer to build than expected
 - Sermons on "*The Church as a Building*" do as well...To be continued
 - When Christ is done building His church He will come for His church