

CALL to PRAYER - “MY house shall be called....”Pray that CBBC would be HIS house***The Church as a Building (pt. 2) - 1 Peter 2:4-10 - Is God Here?***

REVIEW – #3 on Ecclesiology.....from the Greek word for church - *Ekklesia* = “called out ones”. The church are the ones who have been “Called”...called out from world...answered call. The church is a group of assembled *Believers* described as... *a Building...a Body.... &.... a Bride*. The church is its own unique people-group / peculiar group / believing group / gathered group / family group / mixed group / universal group / local group. A group *called out & called together*

Last week we noticed that the Bible describes The Church as a *Building*.

Every building has a *Builder*, a *Foundation*, a *Structure*, and a *Purpose/Occupant*.

- The Church is a Building - the congregation is constructed into a house
- Jesus is the Builder – Matt. 16:18 Author/Finisher Builder/ Architect
- Jesus is the Foundation - the church is built **by** Jesus and **on** Jesus 1 Cor. 3:11
 - Jesus is the Cornerstone (footing) that supports and set the parameters
 - Jesus is joined to His apostles in the foundation - Eph. 2:20

Today we consider the *Structure* of the Building and the *Purpose/Occupant(s)* of the Building

THE STRUCTURE

1. On the unseen foundation is built the visible structure
 - a. Jesus and His apostles are unseen yet indispensable supports for the church
 - b. The Foundation is laid first, but the Foundation is not the final product
 - c. Upon the foundation a magnificent structure is constructed.....the church
2. What are the materials used?
 - a. 1 Peter 2:5a
 - b. People are the material Jesus uses to build His building
 - c. The church is not built out of inanimate objects (not cut material but molded people)
3. The church is a living building
 - a. Living stones being built on The Living Stone – 1 Peter 2:4-5
 - b. The Foundation is alive and the Building is alive...
 - i. ...but only the living building is seen
4. The church is a *living* building and a *growing* building Eph. 2:20-21
 - a. The church is not a stagnate structure but a moving and growing structure
 - b. The church is not just an institution, it is an entity
 - c. To be part of the church is to be part of a living building that is built on the living Christ & built by the living Christ. The church is a living/growing entity
 - d. Are you living and growing? (The church that Jesus is building is)

THE PURPOSE & OCCUPANT

The Church is built to be alive with activity and occupants. (One Occupant and many servants)

- 1 Peter 2:5 the living stones = spiritual house = holy priesthood

- The *parts* of the building are also *priests* in the building
 - The people are the Temple. The people are the priest
- The “priests” in the house are not a special class of people. (~~select living stones~~)
 - All believers are in the priestly class - 1 Peter 2:9 Revelation 1:6
 - If you are part of the church, then you are a holy priest
 - The church has no second-class citizens. We are all priestly servants
- Holy priests have a priestly duty. (busy house/activity in the Temple)
 - 1 Peter 2:5c spiritual sacrifice (only acceptable through the Son)
 - Heb. 13:15-16
 - 1] sacrifice of praise (whose praise gets cut?) 2] doing good & sharing (stuff cut)
 - Rom. 12:1-2
 - 1] living sacrifice (deny self) 2] not conformed to the world
- This the activity of the house is to be holy activity...Holy Temple
 - The holy priesthood is to be engaged in the purpose of the house
 - Those constructed into the living building are to be exhibiting a living faith
 - Sacrifice on behalf of the servants is part of the purpose (cut to fit the project)
- The “House” has many servants but only One Occupant
 - Ephesians 2:20-22 1 Cor. 3:16
 - Jesus is building us into a Temple to live in. A building is built to be occupied.
 - Certificate of Occupancy (CO)
 - The church is constructed to be a House for God
 - MY house.... I will build MY church....
- God promises to “dwell” among His people
 - 2 Cor. 6:16 John 14:23
 - The church is a House for the Holy Spirit
 - The church is Christ’s “crib” Build **by** Jesus, **on** Jesus, and **for** Jesus
 - The church is a Temple for the Father
- The criteria to consider in accessing a church is found by answering one question ...
 - “IS GOD THERE?”
 - ~~Good concert hall lecture hall nice country club fun comedy club~~
 - 1 Cor. 14:23-25
 - If someone came into this church would they say, “*I think God is there.*” ?
- One of most misapplied verses in the Bible is Revelation 3:20
 - This is not a verse on evangelism...it is a verse about eviction. (kicked out Christ)
 - A local church was vacant of its One main Occupant
 - Jesus is on the outside of HIS church....HIS house.
 - The evicted Jesus is knocking on His own door
 - A Christ-less church...a Spirit-less church....a Father-less church is a worthless church
 - Cold water is good for drinking, hot water is good for bathing.... But the Laodicean church was bad water... *worthless water*. Christless = worthless
- Is God here?