

Sunday, November 4, 2012—The Things Freely Given Us of God—The Temple of God

Introduction/Review

- I Corinthians 2:12
- In our last study in this series we looked at the expression “with Christ.” In doing so that we saw that as believers we are 1) crucified, 2) buried, 3) risen, 4) made alive, 5) ascended, and seated with Christ.
- In this study we want to look at verses dealing with the fact that as believers we are the temple of God. We will look at the following spiritual realities.
 - The Temple of God
 - Indwelt by the Father
 - Indwelt by the Son
 - Indwelt by the Holy Spirit

The Temple of God

- I Corinthians 3:16—notice the first phrase in this verse, “Know ye not.” Once again we see that this is something the believer is supposed to know. This is one of the things freely given us of God that we could never know apart from the word of God.
- What does Paul want us to know? He wants us to know that we are the temple of God. The Greek word translated “temple” in this verse is also used to refer to the physical structure that stood in Jerusalem at which Israel worshiped God.
 - Matthew 27:5, 51
 - Luke 1:9, 21-22
- The word is also used to refer to the pagan temples of the Gentiles.
 - Acts 17:24—temples
 - Acts 19:24—shrines
- During God’s dealings with the nation of Israel God dwelt amongst Israel first in the tabernacle and later in the temple.
 - Exodus 25:22—God would commune with Israel between the cherubim on the top of the mercy seat.

- Exodus 26:33-34—the veil divided the holy place from the most holy place (holy of holies) where the ark of the testimony/mercy seat was located.
- Exodus 40
- Leviticus 16:2-13—the high priest was only allowed behind the veil in the presence of God once a year on the Day of Atonement. Physically God's presence was very near but spiritually they were far away from God.
- Numbers 7:89
- Later in Israel's history God removed his glory from the temple because of the sin of the nation.
 - Ezekiel 9:3—the glory of the Lord departed from between the cherubim on the top of the mercy seat to threshold of the house, i.e., temple.
 - Ezekiel 11:23—God's glory had already departed the temple in Jerusalem long before the earthly ministry of Christ.
 - Ezekiel 43:2-5—the glory of the Lord will not return until the millennium.
- I Corinthians 3:16—the idea that God would choose us as his temple i.e., dwelling place during the dispensation of grace is hardly believable.
 - Ephesians 2:19-22—through the body of Body of Christ, God is building his temple today, according to verse 21. As members of the body of Christ we are the habitation of God through the spirit. The Greek word translated "habitation" is only found one other time in the Bible.
 - Revelation 18:2—habitation of devils.
 - The English word habitation carries the following meanings according to *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*: 1) Act of inhabiting; state of dwelling. 2) Place of abode; a settled dwelling; a mansion; a house or other place in which man or any animal dwells.
 - Taking all this into account Paul is literally teaching that we as member of the body of Christ are the abode, dwelling place, and habitation of God almighty. God has chosen us as his place of residence.
- How can this be? How can you and I be the temple and habitation of God?

Indwelt by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- Ephesians 2:22—answer the question for us. We are the habitation of God through the Spirit. God the Holy Spirit the third member of the Godhead inhabits and dwells within us.
- I Corinthians 3:16—the reason we can be the temple of God is because the Spirit of God dwelleth in us. Consider the meanings of the following English words:
 - Dwell—to abide as a permanent resident, or to inhabit for a time; to live in a place; to have a habitation for some time or permanence.
 - Dweller—an inhabitant; a resident of some continuance in a place.
 - Dwelling—inhabiting; residing; sojourning; continuing with fixed attention.
 - Dwelling-Place—the place of residence.
- Through the power of indwelling Holy Spirit, God has established a permanent dwelling place (habitation) in the believer's inner man.
- Romans 7:17-18, 20—how can this be? How can God established his permanent dwelling place inside each and every one us when in us dwelleth no good thing?
- Because we have been crucified, buried, and risen with Christ. Jesus Christ took care of our spiritual problems by nailing them to the cross with him and raising the victor over sin and death. Our inner man has been so renovated by the work of Christ that all three members of the Godhead can establish a residence inside each and every member of the body of Christ.
- Romans 8:9-11—Christ is in us as well.
- Ephesians 4:6—God the Father is in you as well.

Conclusion

- Is Christ still an unwelcomed guest in your life? Have we allowed Christ to move around the furniture of our lives or are we still holding to our old ways of doing things? Does Christ feel comfortable being a guest at your house these days?
- Even though we are temple of God because we have been indwelt by God the Holy Spirit it is possible for us to grieve the Holy Spirit by our conduct and defile the temple of God through our actions.
 - Ephesians 4:30—grieve not the Holy Spirit of God
 - I Corinthians 6:16-20—there are certain behaviors, attitudes, and actions that are unbecoming who we are in Jesus Christ. Would you have a huge fight with your spouse in front of a guest?
 - II Corinthians 6:11-18

- Let's seek to live our lives in accordance with who God has made us in Jesus Christ.