

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians

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CHAPTER TWELVE -

THE CHURCH (THE BUILDING OF GOD) IS INHABITED BY GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 2, verses 19-22

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers, and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of GOD through the Spirit."

Let me point out two words in these verses. They are found twice . . . the words, "**IN WHOM.**" If there is anyone thing clearly taught in Ephesians it is that all spiritual blessings are in CHRIST.

In chapter one, we are believers. At the close of chapter one we have the introduction to chapter two: "**And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is HIS BODY, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all**" (Ephesians 1:22-23). Thus, in chapter two, believers are members of the one body . . . the Body of CHRIST, and we become a member of that body through the baptism of The HOLY SPIRIT (I Corinthians 12:13).

Chapter two closes by introducing chapter three: "**In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit**" (Ephesians 2:22). We see first the believers, the next step we are members of His body; then we are the building inhabited by GOD through the Spirit.

Verse 19 opens with the words, "**Now therefore.**" We were strangers - aliens, enemies; but now we are no longer strangers . . . we are believers, members of His body, fellow-citizens with all saints. We belong to the household of GOD, we are building upon the one Foundation, JESUS CHRIST (I Corinthians 3:11).

He is the chief corner stone and in Him all the building - every believer, regardless of race - is framed together and is continually growing into the perfect body - the Holy Temple of the Lord. In JESUS we are builded together, and GOD inhabits the building through the Spirit.

Beloved, it is too wonderful to take in, that we are the Tabernacle of GOD . . . GOD lives in us! (II Peter 1:4). The divine nature abides in our bosom. We possess the Third Person of the

Godhead . . . The HOLY SPIRIT; therefore we should be very careful how we treat the temple in which GOD dwells.

We who were outcasts spiritually are now GOD's household. We belong to the Father's family. We are the center of His love. We are also the Lord's Temple . . . we are building upon the Chief Cornerstone; but that is not all: We are the habitation of the Spirit . . . He abides and lives in us.

When Jesus had by Himself purged our sins, when He had returned to the Father's side with the Blood of Calvary, He then sent the HOLY SPIRIT into the world, as promised to the disciples. And now, the Spirit abides within every believer. We are the habitation of GOD through the Spirit.

As I prepare these messages, I read in the daily papers where certain outstanding religious leaders are making pilgrimages to famous shrines . . . sacred spots, temples, cathedrals, etc. But let me remind you that the most sacred, the most holy, the most precious spot on this earth, so far as GOD is concerned, is not some shrine or temple, nor some church building. The spot that is supremely sacred to GOD is the place that GOD Himself has chosen as His habitation, His worshiping temple: I am speaking of the heart of a born again believer.

In the words of Paul . . . "**Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me**" (Galatians 2:20). If that fact does not humble your heart, then my precious brother or sister in the Lord, I confess I know no Bible truth that would melt you within! To think that GOD would inhabit my heart certainly humbles me and melts my heart.

GOD help us to keep the temple (this body) clean.

~ end of chapter 12 ~

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