

# GOD'S BUILDING

## Introduction

- 1) As Christians, we are God's "building" (1 Cor. 3:9); *oikodome* (Gk) = a building, edifice, structure
- 2) God's spiritual building today is the church (1 Tim. 3:15; "house" – *oikos*)
- 3) As we see physical buildings built up around us, we need to understand the proper construction of God's spiritual building (builder, foundation, material, function)

## I) BUILDER

- A) God chose the builder of his "building," and that builder is Christ (Matt. 16:18)
  - 1) Christ was given all authority to do so (Matt. 28:18)
  - 2) Churches established by man are built in vain (Psa. 127:1; Matt. 15:9)
- B) The church belongs to Christ/God (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2)

## II) FOUNDATION

- A) Any well-built structure will have a strong, properly-laid foundation
  - 1) The foundation of God's building is Jesus (1 Cor. 3:10-11; Lk. 20:17)
- B) The church is built on the "rock" of Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God (Matt. 16:15-18)
  - 1) Christ's church has a divine foundation; man's churches have human foundations
- C) Jesus as the foundation includes *all truth* revealed by Christ (Eph. 2:20)
  - 1) "Foundation of the apostles and prophets" = the inspired truth they revealed (cf. 3:3-5)
- D) A solid and true foundation is absolutely necessary to build upon
  - 1) Any "building" built on someone or something *other* than Christ and His truth is a false building that should be torn down (Jer. 1:9-10; Matt. 15:13; 2 Cor. 10:4-5)
- E) Is the "house" of your life built on the true, solid foundation (Matt. 7:24-27)?

## III) MATERIAL

- A) The structure of God's building must be built with the proper material
  - 1) There is quality material that is built according to the pattern – and – there is inferior material thrown together haphazardly. Which would you want? Which does God want?
- B) Are we more concerned with our physical houses than God's house (cf. Hag. 1:3-5)?
  - 1) Improvements, maintenance, repair, expansion, upgrade, etc.
- C) Quality material for God's building comes from quality Christians (1 Pet. 2:5a)
  - 1) Any and all faithful people who in Christ are "joined together" in God's building (Eph. 2:19-21); *sunarmologeio* (Gk) – to fit or frame together (Vine) (cf. 4:16)
- D) How can we be the best material possible?
  - 1) Be built up with the "word of His grace" (Acts 20:32)
  - 2) Pursue the things that make for peace and edify one another (Rom. 14:19)
  - 3) What kind of material are you – need self-examination (1 Cor. 3:12-13)?

## IV) FUNCTION

- A) God's building is to function in the way that God has designed it to function
- B) Scriptural functions of God's building:
  - 1) Offer up spiritual sacrifices (1 Pet. 2:5) – worship, service (Rom. 12:1; Heb. 13:15)
  - 2) Habitation of God (Eph. 2:22; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; abides with us)
  - 3) Sound forth the word of the Lord (1 Thess. 1:8)
  - 4) Edify itself in love (Eph. 4:16); take care of needy members (1 Tim. 5:16; Rom. 15:26)
- C) It is *not* a function of God's building to be a restaurant, hospital, recreation/social center
  - 1) It has always been wrong to change the function of God's house (Neh. 13:4-9; Jn. 2:16)

## Conclusion

"You are God's field, you are God's building" (1 Cor. 3:9). Are we the kind of building that God has built? Check the foundation, materials, and function, and let us uphold God and His ways!