

Temple Building *Ephesians 2:1-22*

Introduction

I can remember growing up and being told, “Don’t run in the church, this is God’s house.” Or “take your hat off before you enter the church building, because that is God’s house.” You certainly couldn’t wear shorts or blue jeans in God’s house. That was just disrespectful. And while I believe that most of that instruction had good intentions, it was horrible theology.

The building that the church meets in is not the temple of God. The church, that is, the members of the body of Christ, are the temple of God. They are the dwelling place of God by the Spirit. In fact, these members constitute a temple that is still being constructed today. God is still at work building His dwelling place among men, and that is the focus of this morning’s passage. We are considering the temple building work of God in the church. What is God doing with this temple?

Read Ephesians 2:1-22

Exposition

- I. **What We Were (Vss. 1-3)** – Sinners Dead in Trespasses and Sins
- II. **What We Are (Vss. 4-10)** – Sinners Saved by God’s Grace through Faith
- III. **What We are Becoming (Vss. 11-22)** – Saints and Members of the Household of God | A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

Conclusion

A temple is a place where people encounter God. They come to know God. They hear of God. They grow in their understanding of God. They encounter the presence of God. In the Old Testament, the temple of Solomon and the Second-Temple from the Post-Exilic time, and synagogues served as the place where people encountered God, learned of God, heard of God, grew in their understanding of God.

But now, it is no longer in a temple made by hands that people encounter God, but rather, in the people whom God is building into a temple, the dwelling place of God by the Spirit.

My question to you this morning is how are you in cooperation with other believers in this church serving as the dwelling place of God by the Spirit? When people see your life in community with other believers, are they filled with wondered at the saving power of Christ? When you talk about other believers, do the people that hear you speaking hear you as a loving, compassionate, and caring person? Do people feel welcomed to meet with God through your life and presence?

We are the temple that God is building in Camden, Arkansas. Are we fulfilling our God-given purpose of bringing people into the presence of God with our deeds of love, truth, and faith?