

THE CHURCH

THE TEMPLE OF GOD

Introduction:

1. The New Testament uses many terms and concepts to describe the church of Christ.
2. As members of the church, it is important for us to know what the church is – and what the Lord expects it to be.
3. Thus, as we study these divine descriptions of the church, we will learn how we are to conduct ourselves individually and as a congregation of God's people.
4. The role of the church in God's plan of redemption...
 - a. Eternal purpose
 - b. Connected to the crucifixion
 - c. Result of the resurrection
 - d. Established on Pentecost
5. Descriptive Designations of the Church:
 - a. "The Called Out"
 - b. The Body of Christ
 - c. The Bride of Christ
 - d. The Kingdom of Christ
 - e. The Saved
 - f. The House of God
 - g. The Temple of God

- I. The Temple of God – *A Place of Holiness* (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)
 - A. As seen in the last lesson, the Greek word for 'house' has two meanings:
 1. A dwelling; an inhabited house; a building; a dwelling place; temple
 2. A household; those who dwell in a house; all the persons forming one family
 3. Thus, the church is both the family of God (household) and the temple of God (house).
 - B. Under the Old Testament, the Temple (and Tabernacle) was divided into two rooms called the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (Exo. 26:33-34; 1 Kings 8:6ff).
 1. The Temple was holy because it was set apart for the service of God.
 2. Yet, holiness was also to characterize those who came to the Temple.
 - C. In like manner, the church is a place of holiness.
 - D. Only those who are made holy – by being cleansed by the blood of Jesus – are added to the Lord's church (cf. Acts 2:37, 38, 41, 47; Eph. 5:25-27).
 - E. Those who are members of the church are to live holy lives (Rom. 12:1; 1 Pet. 1:15-16).
 - F. Thus, the holy calling (2 Tim. 1:9) by the holy scriptures (2 Tim. 3:15) enables men to become holy brethren (1 Thes. 5:27) with a holy faith (Jude 20) who lift up holy hands (1 Tim. 2:8) as a holy priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5) and a holy nation (1 Pet. 2:9) living a holy conversation (2 Pet. 3:11) in preparation for entering the holy city (Rev. 21:2; 22:19).

Biblical Description of the Church

Lesson Eleven

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

- II. The Temple of God – *A Place of Fellowship* (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)
- A. Three things are required for man to come into fellowship with God:
 - 1. Provision – *Sacrifice*
 - 2. People – *Priesthood*
 - 3. Place – *Temple*
 - B. Being made free from sin allows one to be in fellowship with God.
 - C. Those who are cleansed from sin are added by the Lord to His church.
 - D. Thus, it is in the church that fellowship with God is possible.
 - E. This fellowship is illustrated by the Lord dwelling in the church – just as God’s presence dwelt in the Temple in Old Testament times (1 Kings 8:10).
 - F. This explains why the Lord does not dwell in temples made with hands (Acts 7:48-50; 17:24-25).
 - G. Fellowship with God allows the privilege of prayer and worship.
 - H. Fellowship with God allows men to have fellowship with one another (Acts 2:42; cf. 2 John 9-11).
- III. The Temple of God – *A Place of Worship* (Ephesians 2:19-22)
- A. The church is a spiritual house, designed for spiritual worship (John 4:24).
 - B. Thus, the church offers up ‘spiritual sacrifices’ (1 Pet. 2:5).
 - C. This includes worship (Heb. 13:15).
 - 1. Singing
 - 2. Praying
 - 3. Preaching/Teaching
 - 4. Giving
 - 5. The Lord’s Supper
 - D. Thus, God is glorified in the church (Eph. 3:21).