

## The Church's Architectural Design

Ephesians 2:19-22

### Introduction:

#### A. Last week we learned

1. At one time, Jews and Gentiles were s\_\_\_\_\_ by the Law of Moses according to God's design
2. But then, Jesus f\_\_\_\_\_ the Law rendering it obsolete.
3. Now, Jesus unites all believers into \_\_\_\_\_ body regardless of race.

#### B. Paul concludes in verse 19 that his readers, who were Gentile Christians, are fellow saints and are of God's h\_\_\_\_\_.

1. God's design for the church has no f\_\_\_\_\_
2. We only need to hold to His design
  - a. Are we as a church body holding to His design?
  - b. Are we as individuals holding to His design?

### The flawless foundation (20a)

#### A. The church has been built on the foundation of the apostles and p\_\_\_\_\_

1. How can the foundation be flawless when apostles and prophets were imperfect people?
  - a. Jonah got a \_\_\_\_\_ with God (Jonah 4:1)
  - b. Moses publicly dis\_\_\_\_\_ God (Num 20:11,12)
  - c. Peter displayed h\_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 2:11,12)
  - d. Paul dissolved his m\_\_\_\_\_ partnership with Barnabas (Acts 15:36-39)
2. God made the o\_\_\_\_\_ flawless so that whenever God spoke through a prophet or apostle or inspired them to write, the product was His perfect w\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. 2Pet 1:21 – God took complete c\_\_\_\_\_ of the person compelling them to speak His word (no one could decide to prophesy)
  - b. Jer 20:9 – Jeremiah could not r\_\_\_\_\_ from prophesying, even though he tried his hardest.

#### B. How do we know who the true prophets and apostles are?

1. Test of a prophet
  - a. All pr\_\_\_\_\_ must come true (Deut 18:22)
    - 1) If one prophecy fails, the prophet is deemed f\_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) If one prophecy fails, the prophet must not be l\_\_\_\_\_ to

- b. All m\_\_\_\_\_ must be consistent with what God has already spoken (Deut 13:1-3)
  2. Test of an apostle (this office is limited to \_\_\_\_\_ - Rev 21:14)
    - a. All must have s\_\_\_\_\_ the resurrected Lord Jesus (Acts 1:22; 1Cor 9:1)
    - b. All must have been appointed by God not by any person, committee, or self-appointment (Lk 6:13; Acts 1:24,25; Gal 1:1)
    - c. All must p\_\_\_\_\_ signs, miracles, and wonders (2Cor 12:12).
- C. The Bible is the record of God's word through His apostles and prophets.
  1. We must b\_\_\_\_\_ all the word of God.
  2. We must j\_\_\_\_\_ our experiences, philosophies, and traditions by His word (not the other way around).

### **The chief cornerstone (20b, 21a)**

- A. Is 28:16 prophecies of the Messiah being God's cornerstone
  1. The word in the Greek text
    - a. Literally means, t\_\_\_\_\_ of the corner or angle (KJV rightly translates as chief corner)
    - b. It refers to the point in which an e\_\_\_\_\_ building is tied together (v. 21 actually states this)
  2. Jesus ties all believers together and makes us f\_\_\_\_\_ with one another.
- B. We do not fit together when we lose sight of Jesus and make other things the key to "doing church" such as:
  1. M\_\_\_\_\_ styles
  2. P\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Personalities, positions, etc
- C. Are you keeping your eyes on Jesus? Is He truly Lord of all you do, say, and think?

### **The blossoming building (21b,22)**

- A. The building structure
  1. Unlike the foundation and the chief corner, the building is not complete but is g\_\_\_\_\_ (verse 21)
  2. Represents all believers in Christ
    - a. People are coming to Christ every day (so the "building" is growing b\_\_\_\_\_ each day)

- b. God is strengthening believers every day (so the “building” is growing s\_\_\_\_\_ each day)
- B. Two results of a growing building structure:
  1. It is becoming a holy t\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord (better translated as sanctuary)
    - a. It refers to the in\_\_\_\_\_ part of the temple called the Holy of Holies.
    - b. It is the place that could only be accessed o\_\_\_\_\_ per year by the High Priest when he brought a sacrifice into God’s presence.
  2. It will be the d\_\_\_\_\_ place of God (see Rev 21:2,3 where the church, the entire people of God, is called the New Jerusalem)
- C. Since we are in progress and not complete
  1. We must a\_\_\_\_\_ God individually
    - a. Talk to God about your problems, joys, dream, everything!
    - b. By doing this, He will g\_\_\_\_\_ you.
  2. We must a\_\_\_\_\_ God as a group - are we promoting His n\_\_\_\_\_ among us

### **Conclusion:**

- A. Note the entire Godhead is mentioned in this passage:
  1. The Father is the b\_\_\_\_\_
  2. The Jesus is the c\_\_\_\_\_
  3. The Holy Spirit is our l\_\_\_\_\_ to God
- B. God’s architectural design
  1. The foundation – the w\_\_\_\_\_ of God (it is to be the basis of your life and this church)
  2. The cornerstone – Jesus f\_\_\_\_\_ us altogether (don’t use any other means)
  3. The building – as we access God and promote His name, He will grow us numerically and spiritually.