

The Temple

(Being Church-Part 3)

1 Peter 2:1-12

Luke 20:9-18

Ephesians 2:11-22

Hear, Do or Perish

- James 1:22
- Luke 13:1-3
- Accountability of the Pastor
 - 2 Timothy 4:1-2
 - Hebrews 13:17



Our Five D's of Discipleship; Catechism; Memory Work

WE or ME

- ALL genuine Christians are attracted to a local body where they can serve God and other brothers and sisters. (Romans 12:4-5)
- EVERY Christian is graced with a gift to be used within a local body of Christ.
- Christ died for His Church. (Ephesians 5:25)
- Christ is coming back for His Bride, the Church. The Church is the Body of Christ.

To the ELECT - the CHURCH (1 Peter 1:2; 2:9-11)

- (1:2) The elect according to the foreknowledge of God, the Father.
- (1:2) Set apart by God, the Holy Spirit.
- (1:2) **FOR obedience.**
- (1:2) Cleansed by the blood of God, the Son.
- (2:9) Chosen by God. (Ephesians 1:3-4; 2 Thess 2:13)
- (2:9) A royal priesthood.
- (2:9) A holy nation.
- (2:9) God's own special people.
- (2:9) Called out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- (2:9) Called out to proclaim His praises.
- (2:10) The people of God.
- 2:10) Those who have obtained (PASSIVE) mercy.
- (2:11) Sojourners and pilgrims. (Hebrews 11:13-16)
- (2:11) Called to be pure. (1 John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1)

Since You Have Tasted GRACE (1 Peter 2:1-3)

- ❶ (v. 1) **Lay aside** ALL malice, ALL guile, hypocrisy, envy and ALL evil speaking". (Hebrews 12:1; Rom 13:11-14; Colossians 3:5-8)

- The ELECT PURSUE holy living. (Hebrews 12:14; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Thess 4:7; 1 John 2:3-4)
- The ELECT PURIFY themselves. (2 Cor 7:1; 1 Jn 3:3; 2:6; 2 Peter 3:14)
- GRACE changes a person into a NEW CREATURE (2 Corinthians 5:17) with a NEW HEART (Ezekiel 36:26) with God's LAW written on it (Hebrews 8:10) and God's Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 36:27) so that this person now will DO God's commandments! (1 John 2:3-4; 5:3; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10)

② **Earnestly desire** (CRAVE) the PURE milk of God's Word.

- The ELECT value the Word of God "more than their necessary food." (Job 23:12)
- The ELECT "love" the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-11)
- The ELECT LIVE on EVERY WORD that comes from God. (Deut 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 42:1)
- The ELECT use God's Word to guide everything that they do. (Psalm 119:105; 43:3; 1 John 1:5-7; 2:9-11; 2:6)
- The ELECT TEST EVERYTHING and EVERYONE by the **written** Word of God. (Acts 17:11; 1 Thess 5:11; Isaiah 8:20; 1 John 4:1; Rev 2:2)

③ **Grow.**

- The ELECT GROW in the knowledge and grace of God. (2 Peter 3:17-18; Heb 5:12-14; Psalm 92:12; Col 1:10; 2 Thess 1:2; 1 Peter 2:2)

- ★ Either one is **PRESSING FORWARD** (Philippians 3:12-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-26; Hebrews 12:1-2) or **GOING BACKWARDS** (Isaiah 1:4; Jeremiah 7:24; 15:6; 32:33; Hosea 11:7; Hebrews 2:1-3)

THEN Continually Come to Christ (1 Peter 2:4)

- (v.4) NO ONE CAN COME TO CHRIST in his/her own strength! (John 6:44, 65; Romans 5:6)
- BUT **ALL** who have been "given to Christ" (John 6:37-39; 10:29; 17:4, 6, 9, 11, 24) will come to Christ! (Acts 13:48)
- What does it mean for someone to come to Christ?
 - ① The person acknowledges his sin and continually forsakes all his/her own righteousness and realizes he/she is "without strength" to save him/herself. (Romans 5:6)
 - ② The person must confess Christ as **LORD**. (Romans 10:9)
 - One must SURRENDER his/her whole life to Christ as OWNER, RULER, and MASTER. (Romans 10:9; 1 Cor 6:19-20) He/she "yokes" him/herself to his/her Lord. (Matt 11:28-29)
 - One must NOW live according to His Master's will. (Matthew 7:21-23; 12:50; 1 Peter 4:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17)
 - ③ The person must NOW PURSE a holy life. (Hebrews 12:14; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:13-16) == This is called REPENTANCE. (Acts 17:30; Luke 13:1-5; Matthew 4:17; **Luke 24:47**; 2 Cor 7:10; 1 John 2:3-4)

- ④ The person must be in TOTAL AGREEMENT with his/her Lord. (Amos 3:3) The person walks in the LIGHT just as He, the LORD, walks in the light. (1 John 1:6-7)
- The ELECT continually come to Christ to DRINK. (John 7:37)
- The ELECT come to Christ's throne of grace for mercy, more grace, and help in the time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

Christ the Cornerstone of the Church (1 Peter 2:4-6)

- Peter, moved by the Holy Spirit, describes the Christ that the ELECT come to

- ① He is LIVING. He came to live and die for sinners and rose again for their justification, and now is making intercession for them. (Romans 4:25; Galatians 2:20; Titus 2:11-14; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)
- ② He was/is REJECTED by men. (Isaiah 53:3; Psalm 118:22; John 19:15)
- ③ He is God's CHOSEN Servant. (Isa 42:1; Matt 12:18; 20:28; Philip 2:5-8)
- ④ He is PRECIOUS. (Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 1:19)
- ⑤ He is the CORNERSTONE. (Isaiah 28:17; Ephesians 2:19-2)

THE ELECT: Living Stones (1 Peter 2:5)

- The CHURCH is a "spiritual house" and its stones are the ELECT of God.
 - The ELECT are the "house" of Christ. (Hebrews 3:6)
 - The ELECT are the TEMPLE of GOD. (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20, 16; Ephesians 2:20-22)
 - The Church has as its foundation the apostles and prophets.
 - Christ, Himself, is the Church's cornerstone.
 - The whole Church is "being fitted together" - PASSIVE. (Eph 2:21-22)
 - The whole Church **grows** into a temple in the Lord. (Eph 2:21)
 - Christ said, "I will build MY Church." (Matthew 16:18)

THE ELECT: A Holy Priesthood (1 Peter 2:5)

- Only PRIESTS have direct access to God. The ELECT were "made priests" by God. (Revelation 5:10; 20:6; 1 Peter 2:9)
- PRIESTS were sovereignly chosen by God. In the Old Testament God chose the tribe of Levi and the family of Aaron to be priests. The tribe of Levi was under a curse! (Exodus 28:1; Genesis 49:5-7)
 - ★ The ELECT of God are sovereignly chosen by God. (Ephesians 1:4; Romans 8:33; 9:11; 11:5, 7; 1 Peter 1:2)
- PRIESTS were CLEANSED by Moses. (Leviticus 8-9). God cleanses His elect. (1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 2:14; 3:5; Hebrews 10:22)
- PRIESTS were clothed with clothes designed by God to set them apart from all others! The ELECT are CLOTHED by GOD with His own righteousness.

(Philippians 3:9; Isaiah 61:10; Luke 15:22)

- PRIESTS were appointed to service. The ELECT are saved “unto good works”. (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14)
- PRIESTS were called to STRICT OBEDIENCE. Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron, priests, were struck down dead when they failed to abide by God’s Word. (Leviticus 10:1-3) The ELECT are called to obedience. (1 John 2:3-4; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10; 1 John 5:3; 1 Sam 15:22; Matt 7:21-23; John 8:31; 1 Peter 1:13-16)
- PRIESTS were called to teach the people the difference between the CLEAN and the UNCLEAN (Malachi 2:6-7; Ezekiel 22:26; 44:23). The ELECT of God are called to be TEACHERS. (Hebrews 5:12-14; Psalm 34:11; Matthew 28:20; Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:7; 29:29; ; Psalm 78:3-8; Eph 6:4)
- PRIESTS INTERCEDE for the people. The ELECT intercede for each other.

Acceptable Sacrifices (v. 5)

- God does not accept just anything we bring Him! Our sacrifices must meet His qualifications. God demands our **BEST**. (Exodus 12:5; 29:1; Leviticus 1:3, 10; 3:1, 6; 4:3, 23, 28, 32; 5:15, 18; 6:5; etc.) See Malachi 1:6-10; Isaiah 1:11-16; Amos 5:21-23; Jeremiah 7:21-23; Proverbs 15:8; 21:27; 28:9.
- What are New Testament priests to offer? As the ELECT of God . . .
 - ① We offer up our bodies as living sacrifices. (Romans 12:1; 6:13, 16, 19)
 - ② We offer up the “sacrifice of praise”. (Hebrews 13:15)
 - ③ We offer up our “good works”. (Hebrews 13:16)
 - ④ We offer up our financial offerings. (Philippians 4:18)
 - The ELECT provide the finances of the Temple by tithing.
 - ⑤ We offer up our prayers as sweet incense interceding for others without ceasing.. (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8; Col 4:2; Luke 18:1; Rom 12:12; Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
- We can only offer acceptable sacrifices *through* Christ.

Pressing Toward the Goal

- ★ We grow when every part does its part/share. God saves us to be “We’s” NOT “Me’s”.
- ❶ Because we have received God’s grace let US cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the spirit and flesh, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- ❷ Because we are living stones and Christ is our Cornerstone let us align ourselves with Him and walk (live) as He did. As disciples let us imitate Christ.
- ❸ Because we ARE priests let us perform our duties as priests offering up daily sacrifices and making daily intercession for our brethren.
- ❹ Because we ARE priests let us be examples for each other and able to say, “Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”