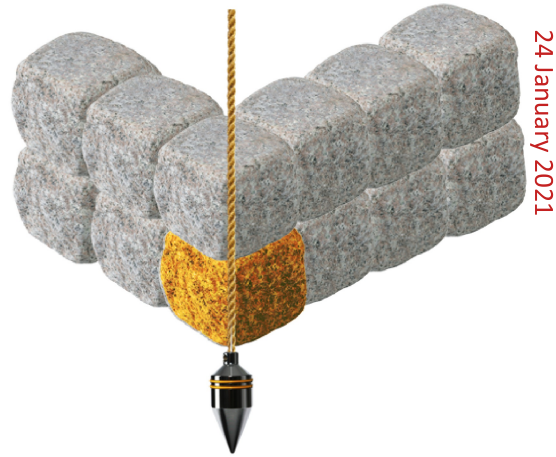


The Temple of GOD



Ephesians 2:11-22

1 Peter 2:1-12

Hebrews 3:1-6

Who Is the Church?

- He calls His Church “called out ones”. (Romans 8:28-30; 2 Timothy 1:9)
- A “little flock” - Sheep who obey His commands. (John 10:11, 14-15, 26-29; Hebrews 5:9)
- The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:4-5)
- Household of Faith (Galatians 6:10)
- A Royal Priesthood (1 Peter 2:5, 9)
- A Holy Nation (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16)
- His Own Special (**Peculiar**) People (1 Peter 2:9; Deut. 4:20; 7:6; Titus 2:14)
- A Chosen (elite; picked out) Generation (1 Peter 2:9; Psalm 33:12)
- God’s Elect (Matthew 24:22, 24, 31; Romans 8:33; 9:11; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thess 1:4; Titus 1:1)
- Saints (Rom. 1:7; 2 Cor 1:1; Eph 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Hebrews 12:14)
- Christ’s Brethren (Colossians 1:2; Hebrews 2:12, 17)
- Disciples (Acts 6:1-2; 18:23; 20:7)
- God’s Family (Hebrews 3:6; John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; James 1:18; 1 John 3:1, 2, 10; 5:1-3; Matthew 12:50)
- The Pillar and Ground of TRUTH. (1 Timothy 3:15)
- He calls His Church – Living stones being built up (1 Peter 2:5)
- The Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27, 30-33)
- Citizen of the Kingdom of God - Mark 1:14-15; Philippians 3:20-21)
- God’s Temple (2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:22; 1 Peter 2:5)

Called Out Ones - IN CHRIST (Ephesians 2:11-18)

- **REMEMBER** (PRESENT tense; ACTIVE voice; IMPERATIVE mood)
 - ① Who you **were**.
 - ② Who you **are**.
 - ③ Where you **are** heading.

• **REMEMBER** that you were:

- ① **WITHOUT** Christ.
BUT NOW we are “in Christ!” (Romans 8:1)
- ② **WITHOUT** Citizenship (Aliens).
BUT NOW we are “fellow citizens!” (Philippians 3:20-21)
- ③ **WITHOUT** Covenants of Promise.
BUT NOW we are “partakers of His promise in Christ”. (Ephesians 3:6; Galatians 3:14, 16, 22, 29)
- ④ **WITHOUT** Hope.
BUT NOW we are “called to ONE hope” and reborn to a “living hope.” (Ephesians 4:4; 1 Peter 1:3)
- ⑤ **WITHOUT** God.
BUT NOW we are God’s special people. (1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 8:10-12)

• **REMEMBER** you **were** RECONCILED!

- The GOOD NEWS of the Gospel is that one can have PEACE with GOD in contrast to being enemies! (Romans 5:10; 8:7; Col 1:21)
 - (v. 16) “reconcile” ἀποκαταλλάσσω (*apokatalasso*) is a powerful Greek word.
 - ★ It means to change from HOSTILITY to a FRIENDLY relationship.
 - ★ It means to bring back completely into perfect harmony.
 - ★ It means that **one** party takes the action.
 - ★ It means that the “upper party” is the one who takes the action.
 - Jesus Christ is OUR PEACE.
 - ★ Our peace with God. (Romans 5:1)
 - ★ Our peace with each other. (Ephesians 2:14-15)
 - Jesus Christ made peace.
 - ★ Through His death! (Isaiah 53:5; Ephesians 2:15-16)
 - Jesus Christ preached peace! (v. 17)
 - We preach and stand on the Gospel of PEACE. (Acts 10:36; Romans 10:15; Ephesians 6:15; Isaiah 52:7; Nahum 1:15)
- **REMEMBER** you were FAR OFF from GOD BUT NOW have ACCESS to the Supreme Being of the Universe - GOD – by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:22; 2:13)
- **NOW we are ONE!** (Ephesians 2:14, 15, 16; 4:4-6; Gal 3:28; 1 Cor 12:12)

NOW, Therefore . . . (Ephesians 2:19)

Citizenship Approved

- Christ came preaching, “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” (Mark 1:15; Matthew 4:17; 10:7; Luke 10:9)
 - ★ Christ Came PREACHING - *Kerussoing* (Mark 1:14)

- “to preach” is κηρύσσω kerusso {kay-roos'-so} and means “to herald the king’s message”.
 - “to herald” means “to herald the message of the king with formality, gravity, and an authority that **must** be listened to and **obeyed**.”
- The Gospel of the Kingdom of God. What is a kingdom? A kingdom must have at least four elements:
 - ❶ **A King** – a supreme sovereign authority. A king provides all for His subjects!! “I will be their God.” (Daniel 5:18-19; Hebrews 8:10)
 - ❷ **Law** – the King’s will or desires make up the Law of a kingdom. God’s **Written** Word is God’s Law. To violate the king’s law was/is treason/rebellion.
 - ❸ **Subjects** – the citizens of a kingdom are subjects of the King. The King determines who can be a member of His kingdom (James 1:18; John 1:13; 3:3-8; Romans 8:29-30; 9:15-18; Philippians 3:20-21; Ephesians 2:19). Citizens are **saints** (those set apart by God for Himself). Citizens are “**holy ones**” called to live holy lives. Citizens are subject to the LAWS of the Kingdom! Citizens live to **do** the will of their King (Lord). (1 Peter 1:13-16, 25; 1 Thessalonians 4:4; Matthew 7:21; 1 John 2:17; Hebrews 12:14) Subjects serve their King. (Romans 12:11; 1 Cor 7:22; Ephesians 6:5-8; Hebrews 12:28; Psalm 2:11)
 - ❹ **Territory** – The world is God’s territory. (Psalm 24:1; 50:12; 89:11; 98:7; Deuteronomy 10:14; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Job 11:11). The Church is God’s Holy nation – 1 Peter 2:9.

Adopted into THE Royal Family

- (1 John 3:1) What manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called the **children of God!!!!**
- God’s children are those whom He has “fathered” by **His will** (James 1:18; John 1:13; 3:8; Romans 9:15-16); by **His power** (John 5:21; 6:63; 10:21, 28; 17:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17); and by **His love** (1 John 3:1; Ephesians 2:4; 3:18-19)
- The Father’s goal for all His children is to “conform them to the image of His Son”! (Romans 8:29)
- And because they are His children they purify themselves **just as** He is pure! (1 John 3:3; Hebrews 12:14; 2 Cor 7:1; 2 Peter 1:4; 3:14)
 - “to purify” is ἀγνίζω hagnizo {hag-nid'-zo} means “make pure”; “cleanse from defilement”.
 - ★ This verb is in the PRESENT TENSE and ACTIVE VOICE.
 - ★ The children of God are always doing this action!
- Because they are His children they do not and cannot sin (have a habit of) because God’s seed is in them. (1 John 3:6, 9; Matt 7:21; 12:50)

- Because they are His children they “practice righteousness” and “do His will”. (1 John 3:10; Matthew 7:21; 12:49-50; 1 John 2:17)
- And because they are His children they are His heirs and coheirs with Christ! (Romans 8:16-17; Revelation 21:7 with 1 John 5:4)

Living Stones - We Are His Temple

- (1 Peter 2:5) The Church, God’s ELECT, are “living stones” being built up “a spiritual up a spiritual house”!
 - ★ (Ephesians 2:21) “being fitted together” - συναρμολογέω sunarmologeō {soon-ar-mol-og-eh'-o} PRESENT tense; PASSIVE voice. “Carefully joining together” – It is GOD who is BUILDING HIS CHURCH. (Matthew 16:18)
 - The ELECT are the “house” of Christ. (Hebrews 3:6)
- The Church is built on “the foundation of the apostles and prophets” with Christ as THE CORNERSTONE! (1 Peter 2:6-8; Isaiah 28:16)
- A cornerstone is one set down FIRST and “defines” ALL other stones. (See Isaiah 28:16-17) A **plumb line** and **measuring lines** sets all others stones by the Cornerstone. (See Amos 7:7-8)
- Peter teaches us the significance of Christ as the Cornerstone:
 - ① He is LIVING. He now makes intercession for His own. (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34)
 - ② He was/is REJECTED by men. (Isaiah 53:3; Psalm 118:22; John 19:15)
 - ③ He is GOD’s CHOSEN Servant. (Isaiah 42:1; Matthew 12:18)
 - ④ He is PRECIOUS. (Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:4)
 - ⑤ He is either the CORNERSTONE **or** STUMBLING STONE! (1 Peter 2:8; Isaiah 8:14; Luke 2:34; 1 Corinthians 1:23)
- The FOUNDATION of the CHURCH is the WORD of GOD (“apostles and prophets”) with Christ, Himself, the Cornerstone.
- (v. 22) “being built **together**” – PASSIVE voice; PRESENT tense. God is not finished and will not be finished until EVERY ONE of God’s elect is added to HIS TEMPLE! (1 Peter 3:9)
- (v. 22) The CHURCH, the ELECT, is God’s “dwelling place”! (See John 14:23, 17; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:20-22; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Romans 8:11)
- The ELECT, living stones, line themselves up with the Cornerstone, Jesus Christ.

The Big “IF” (Hebrews 3:1-6)

- GRACE brings with it the determination and responsibility in living the Christian life as outlined by God’s **written** Word.

Are You Part of the “WE”