

**“The Church Jesus is Building (part 5): “We Are His Home”
March 6, 2016**

1 Peter 2:4-10

CORE: Jesus’ Church is—“His culture-transforming company” AND (as we will see today) “His home (*i.e., Temple, dwelling place*).”

1. JESUS IS THE BUILDER

“His Temple” (v. 4-5)- THE place of His Presence among them; sacrifices made—forgiveness extended; feasts—celebrations of His faithfulness

Jesus announced He would be the BUILDER of a NEW TEMPLE—a revolutionary new way to connect with God:

- **John 2:19- “Destroy this Temple, and I will raise it up in three days!”**
- **John 4:21- “Neither in this mountain (Samaria—Mt. Gerizim) nor in Jerusalem (Mt. Zion).” New “location, location, location”—in the hearts of “true worshipers”!**

NOTE: Very early in His ministry, Jesus announced a new temple that “NOW is!”—built in the Spirit.

2 Samuel 7:11,12- “The Lord Himself will establish a house...your offspring” (i.e., Jesus—of the line of David; not Solomon; pointed to the spiritual temple)

Ephesians 2:22- “And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 3:16- “Do you not know *and* understand that you [the church] are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells [permanently] in you [collectively and individually]?”

NOTE: Being “built” by Jesus (i.e., “I will build My church”) means we are willing to hear His word and respond obediently. The Bible is filled with those who did the same (i.e., Noah, Abraham, Moses)—even when it made no sense!

“Until you are willing to look a little foolish—you’ll never experience the possibility of doing something that could change the world!” -Danny Chambers

2. JESUS IS THE CORNERSTONE

2:6-7- Quotes from OT

a. Isaiah 28:16- “Firmly placed” —“Embedded in the earth, flood-proof, can’t be moved” (NOTE: Parable of 2 houses—about two systems—2 different temples)

Father saying: *"You can build your lives upon My Son."*

"Has laid in Zion" - *past tense—done before the foundation of the world—now made manifest*

"Choice stone" - *tested and proven*

- *Meeting every one of God's priorities*
- *Fully approved*
- *Also meeting every possible need (within the hearts of humanity)! (i.e., "the desired of nations" (Haggai 2:7))*

"Precious" - *priceless; irreplaceable; having intrinsic value (whether seen or not)*

b. **Psalm 118:22-24**- *"The Chief Cornerstone" Holds everything together; and the stone by which everything is measured*

"Rejected" - *shocking; polar opposite of "precious"—something examined and determined to be unfit and useless.*

Why did they reject Him?

- He refused to conform to their control (i.e., "my personal savior" on my "personal terms"—making Him in their image)
 - Fed the poor (national welfare program)
 - Healed all (universal health care program)
 - They offered to be His PR people—but He refused. Went to wilderness...and when He returned...
- He called them higher & closer—"Unless you eat My flesh & drink My blood"
 - Strong covenant words (shocking to them)
 - "Partake of Me"—yet, they refused close relationship (Sinai)
 - They "did not understand"—"to stand under the influence of another"

YET, God built His Church on the "rejected Stone"—"This is the day" spoke of the THIRD DAY. "God did it!" "It was marvelous in our eyes"!

NOTE: Jesus and His disciples sang Psalm 118 after Passover meal on their way to Gethsemane—confident in Father's covenant love and purposes!

CONCLUSION-

There's no place for INDIFFERENCE (middle ground; lukewarm) with Jesus—either we "build upon Him" or we are finished!

“Coming to Him” - (more than initial prayer for salvation)—a continued coming to Him (so intimate, consistent—we become like conglomerate stones; unable to see any distinction between)

- No longer “tossed to and fro”
- Beyond Job 3:25- “What I fear has come upon me” (*i.e., holding to a negative vision of the future; “awfulizing” life*)
- From “runaway bride” to “I am my Beloved’s and He is mine!!!”