

The Magnificence of the Lord's Holy Temple

Eph. 2:19-22

Introduction:

- A. The world's magnificent temples and buildings.
 - 1. Solomon's Temple.
 - 2. Temple of Diana.
 - 3. Great Cathedrals.
 - 4. Mansions of rich and famous.
- B. None match the magnificence of the temple described by Paul — the church.
- C. God's temple (universal or local) consists of two great parts.

Discussion:

I. The Foundation (v. 20).

- A. Christ with the apostles and prophets (Eph. 3:1-5; Heb. 2:1-4).
- B. No other foundation acceptable (1 Cor. 3:9-11; Gal. 1:6-9).

II. The Framing (v. 21; cf. 1 Pet. 2:5)

- A. Various *peoples* framed together (Eph. 2:11-22; Acts 10:34-35; Gal. 2:11-13; 3:28; 1 Tim. 6:1-2; 17-19; James 2:1-9).
- B. Various *offices/functions* framed together (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:25-30; Eph. 4:11, 16).
- C. Various *ages* framed together (1 John 2:13, 14; Paul & Timothy)
- D. Various *strengths* framed together (Rom. 14:1; 15:1-7; 1 Thess. 5:14; Heb. 5:12-14)
- E. All framed together in a common faith (cf. Jude 3)
 - 1. Common plan of salvation and forgiveness.
 - 2. Common Worship.
 - 3. Common Work (Only differing in ability).
 - 4. Common standard of conduct.
- F. All framed together rather than departmentalized.
 - 1. Social gospel departmentalizes — various groups have different social needs.
 - 2. Gospel of Christ blends — all groups have same basic spiritual needs.
 - 3. Differ on in suitability for roles

Conclusion:

- A. Why is it so magnificent?
 - 1. Rests on divine foundation.
 - 2. Blends such variety into one harmonious unit.
- B. There is a place for you in this great temple.