



Our Architect and Builder is God, Part 2

(We are Being Built into a Spiritual House and Priesthood)

1 Peter 2:4-10

“The building technique of Peter’s day called for the ‘cornerstone’ of the foundation to be the first stone laid in place. From it the walls and floor would be extended, so the cornerstone had to be ‘square and true.’”

John Stott

“From the Bible an individual can learn a lot about God and can even come to know God. That can be done alone. But, in community, in the Church, when with the people of God, you can go deeper into the Bible and the Bible can go deeper into you in a way that can never happen if left to yourself. Corporate worship and prayer are the same, they connect you and grow you in ways that personal worship and prayer cannot.

If you say or think “I’ll just get the sermon online, I can listen on my own in my car, I can watch the service later and get the same thing from them, I don’t have to go to church, and I’ll be just as shaped by them as if I was there”or even if you say “I’ll go to church every once in a while, but I won’t join the church, I won’t make covenant with them to be a member of the community in which everyone vows their commitment to helping one another grow, and I can be just as healthy and grow just as much...you are wrong! You are wrong! And the reasons that is wrong are not psychological or sociological. They are theological. God’s promise to ‘dwell with’ and have ‘visiting presence’ with his people was with his gathered, corporate, covenant people.

Tim Keller

*God shall build a house of worship:
The great LORD of heaven and earth!
His own Church bows down before him,
hears his Word and sings his worth!
Not of our own bricks and mortar,
but our hearts and lives we raise!
'Tis his great name we'll sing forever
As His building, we lift our praise!*

Margaret Clarkson (altered)

I. There are “Those Who BELIEVE....” vs. 7 (Faith) Matthew 16:15,18

- A. Many are Called** *“Many are called....”* **Matthew 22:14a**
- B. Few are Chosen** *...but few are chosen.”* **Matthew 22:14b**
- C. Many will Fall Away** *“On that Day many will say....”* **Matthew 7:22**

But, what of those who do NOT Believe?

Christ as Stumbling Stone, Rock of Offense

Matt. 21:44, 1 Peter 2:8

II. “Those Who Believe,” BELONG! vs. 9-10

- A. Union with Christ** *(Identity, Washing, Newness)*
- B. Communion with the Triune God** *(Father, Son and Holy Spirit)*
- C. A True Community** *(Covenant relationship with God and His People)*

But, what of those who do NOT Belong?

III. Those who Believe, Belong and are “BEING BUILT UP” vs. 5

- A. Into a “Spiritual House”** *(Not individual houses, but a single House of Praise)*
- B. As a “Priesthood”** *(Not individual priests, but a collective Priesthood)*

1 Peter 2:4-10

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices *acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*.

6 For in Scripture it says:

*“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”*

7 Now *to you who believe, this stone is precious*. But to those who do not believe,

*“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”*

8 and,

*“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”*

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Matthew 16:15,18

Jesus asked Peter “But, what about you, who do you say that I am?”

Peter said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’

Jesus replied ‘I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not overcome it.’”

Matthew 22:14

“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Matthew 7:22-23

22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

Matthew 21:42,44

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

*“‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”*

44 Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”