

Upon What Is The Church of Christ Built? Part 2

The ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary's cross allowed foreigners to be found, and strangers to become saints, while simultaneously being added to the household of God. While saint is a term usually used very loosely to describe religious or holy people, we have no authority to apply a spirit filled term to those who do not have the Spirit of Christ. Furthermore, to be of the 'household of God,' one must be under His direction, discipline and teaching. We are able to see three distinct figures that express this unity and equality between believing Jews and Gentiles, but is now is open to and seen in all who obey Christ. First, the acknowledgement of a city comes from the Greek city-state political concept whereby all inhabitants of a particular city-state were 'fellow citizens' enjoying the same privileges. Secondly, the idea of a family since Gentiles have now been reconciled to God, and to His people, they are now members of the household of God having obtained membership as the children of the divine family. Thirdly, the concept of a building is brought to life. Believing Jews and Gentiles are now a part of the same divine structure or foundation, the church.

Next, the Apostle Paul stated the foundation it was built upon, first the prophets and then the apostles, but all upon Jesus Christ. Many assume that the term 'prophet' can apply to anyone who so desires, but the bible answers this misconception very clearly. To understand, lets analyze the term conceptually and then biblically. "Prophet" is defined as "one who speaks for God through divine guidance." Regardless of what one may think or even speculate, when we read Hebrews 1:1-2 the idea of modern day prophets is laid to rest by the Supreme Authority, God. Next, let us consider the term or position of apostle. It is defined as "the original twelve followers of Jesus." Many times people assume the term apostle and disciple are interchangeable, but scripturally they are not. The apostles were chosen by Jesus himself and referred to as disciples; whereas, a disciple refers to any follower of Christ. The term itself means "to be under the discipline or a follower." Since we are dealing directly with Christianity, there is no doubt as to whom is being followed, Jesus Christ himself.

The foundation is now clearly seen as that of Jesus Christ, with Him serving as the 'chief cornerstone' of His church. The concept or notion of the corner stone is taken from Oriental architecture which placed greater importance on the cornerstone than on the foundation. For it connected the walls and concentrated the weight of the building on itself, thus bonding and holding together all that was in the makeup of the structure itself. How interesting that just as a physical

cornerstone holds that significance, Christ holds that same status and significance to His church. Without him, nothing that is would be. The terms 'fitly framed together' help us to comprehend that we are carefully and harmoniously joined together as one in Christ Jesus (cf. Colossians 1:16-18). As His church, we are considered as a 'habitation' or dwelling place in whom God lives through His Holy Spirit. That same unified Spirit that the apostle Paul said only exists in the Lord's Church. We further understand and know that the 'life' of the church of Christ is within the members or the stones of the church. (1 Peter 2:5) Liveliness is not in anything brought in, like instruments, but life is within the members who have now obtained it (life) more abundantly. We can clearly see that the foundation of the Lord's Church is connected to the Son, through the will of His Father.