

Message Five

The Tabernacle and the Priesthood

MC Hymns: 848, 849

Scripture Reading: Exo. 25:8; 27:20—28:2; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9

Exo 25:8	And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
Exo 27:20	And you shall command the children of Israel to bring to you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually.
Exo 27:21	In the Tent of Meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall maintain it in order from evening to morning before Jehovah; it shall be a perpetual statute to be observed throughout their generations by the children of Israel.
Exo 28:1	And bring near to yourself Aaron your brother and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may serve Me as a priest—Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.
Exo 28:2	And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.
1 Pet 2:5	You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
1 Pet 2:9	But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

I. Life and building are the basic and central revelation of the Bible:

- A. Life is for building, the corporate expression of the Triune God, and the building is of life—John 11:25; 14:2; 1 Cor. 3:6, 9:
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
 - John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
 - 1 Cor 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.
 - 1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.
 1. Life is the content, and building is the corporate expression of the content.
 2. Life is God Himself, and building is the expression of the Triune God as life in a corporate organic entity—Matt. 16:18; Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11; 12:4-5.
 - Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 - Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
 - Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
 - Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
 - Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
 - Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
 - Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- B. Life is the Triune God embodied in Christ and realized as the Spirit dispensing Himself into us for our enjoyment, and building is the church, the Body of Christ, God's spiritual house, as the enlargement and expansion of God for the corporate expression of God—Gen. 2:8-9, 22; Matt. 16:18; Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:16.
- Gen 2:8 And Jehovah God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the man whom He had formed.
 - Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- Gen 2:22 And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- C. The Gospel of John reveals that the Triune God is dispensing Himself as life into His believers and that the believers, as the result of this dispensing, become the building of God, His expansion, enlargement, and corporate expression—1:4; 10:10b; 11:25; 14:2-3, 6.
- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 10:10b ... I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
- John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- D. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of life and building for us to be built up to be the church as the house of God and the Body of Christ—Eph. 2:21-22; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 12:12, 27; Col. 3:4, 15; 2:19.
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- 1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- E. The central vision of the Bible—the building of the house of God—can be considered the highlight of the Bible and also the essence extracted from the Bible—Exo. 25:8; 40:17-35; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Tim. 3:15; Rev. 21:2-3.
- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- Exo 40:17 And in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was raised up.
- Exo 40:18 And Moses raised up the tabernacle and put down its sockets and set up its boards and put in its bars and raised up its pillars.
- Exo 40:19 And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it from above, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
- Exo 40:20 Then he took the Testimony and put it into the Ark, and he set the poles onto the Ark and put the expiation cover upon the Ark above it.
- Exo 40:21 And he brought the Ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil for the screen and screened the Ark of the Testimony, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
- Exo 40:22 Then he put the table in the Tent of Meeting on the north side of the tabernacle outside the veil.

- Exo 40:23 And he arranged the bread in order upon it before Jehovah, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
- Exo 40:24 Then he put the lampstand in the Tent of Meeting opposite the table, on the south side of the tabernacle.
- Exo 40:25 And he set up the lamps before Jehovah, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
- Exo 40:26 Then he put the golden altar in the Tent of Meeting before the veil,
- Exo 40:27 And he burnt fragrant incense on it, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
- Exo 40:28 Then he set up the screen of the entrance to the tabernacle.
- Exo 40:29 He also set the altar of burnt offering at the entrance of the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meal offering, as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
- Exo 40:30 And he set the laver between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water there for washing.
- Exo 40:31 And Moses and Aaron and his sons would wash their hands and their feet with water from it;
- Exo 40:32 Whenever they went into the Tent of Meeting and whenever they came near the altar, they washed; as Jehovah had commanded Moses.
- Exo 40:33 And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and put up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work.
- Exo 40:34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle.
- Exo 40:35 And Moses was not able to enter the Tent of Meeting, because the cloud settled on it and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- 1 Tim 3:15 But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

II. In the sequence of the divine record in Exodus, the priesthood follows the tabernacle—27:20—28:2:

- Exo 27:20 And you shall command the children of Israel to bring to you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually.
- Exo 27:21 In the Tent of Meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall maintain it in order from evening to morning before Jehovah; it shall be a perpetual statute to be observed throughout their generations by the children of Israel.
- Exo 28:1 And bring near to yourself Aaron your brother and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may serve Me as a priest—Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.
- Exo 28:2 And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.
- A. Exodus 27:20-21 reveals that immediately after the tabernacle came into existence, there was the need of the priesthood for the lighting of the lamps; this indicates that, spiritually speaking, the priesthood and the tabernacle are one entity.
- Exo 27:20 And you shall command the children of Israel to bring to you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually.
- Exo 27:21 In the Tent of Meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall maintain it in order from evening to morning before Jehovah; it shall be a perpetual statute to be observed throughout their generations by the children of Israel.
- B. In typology the priesthood and the tabernacle as one entity signify the church composed of God's redeemed people as a spiritual house and a priesthood—25:8; 28:1.

Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
 Exo 28:1 And bring near to yourself Aaron your brother and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may serve Me as a priest—Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

C. Through the pictures in the book of Exodus, God reveals that His redeemed people are both the tabernacle and the priesthood; with the fulfillment of the types in the New Testament, the tabernacle and the priesthood are put together—1 Pet. 2:5:

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1. In the Old Testament the house and the priesthood were separated, but in the New Testament the spiritual house is the priesthood, and the priesthood is the spiritual house—1 Pet. 2:5.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

2. We cannot have the priesthood without the tabernacle, and we cannot have the tabernacle without the priesthood.

3. If we are not a spiritual house, we cannot be the priesthood; likewise, if we are not the priesthood, we cannot be a spiritual house.

4. The twofold function of the church—that of the dwelling place and that of the priesthood—is typified by the tabernacle and the priesthood—Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9.

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

III. The fact that the tabernacle is mentioned before the priesthood in Exodus emphasizes the need of the believers to be built up to be God's dwelling place so that they may serve Him as a corporate, coordinated priesthood—25:8; 26:1-30; 27:20—28:2:

Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;

Exo 26:1 Now the tabernacle you shall make with ten curtains of fine twined linen and blue and purple and scarlet strands; you shall make them with cherubim, the work of a skillful workman.

Exo 26:2 The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain, four cubits; all the curtains shall have the same measurement.

Exo 26:3 Five curtains shall be joined to one another; and the other five curtains shall be joined to one another.

Exo 26:4 And you shall make loops of blue strands on the edge of the one curtain at the end in the set; and likewise you shall make them in the edge of the outermost curtain in the second set.

Exo 26:5 You shall make fifty loops on the one curtain, and you shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is in the second set; the loops shall be opposite one another.

Exo 26:6 And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and join the curtains to one another with the clasps, so that the tabernacle may become one.

Exo 26:7 And you shall make curtains of goats' hair for a tent over the tabernacle; eleven curtains you shall make in all.

Exo 26:8 The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain, four cubits; the eleven curtains shall have the same measurement.

- Exo 26:9 And you shall join five of the curtains by themselves and six of the curtains by themselves, and you shall double the sixth curtain over at the front of the tent.
- Exo 26:10 And you shall make fifty loops on the edge of the one curtain that is outermost in the set, and fifty loops upon the edge of the curtain which is outermost in the second set.
- Exo 26:11 And you shall make fifty clasps of bronze and put the clasps into the loops and join the tent together, so that it may become one.
- Exo 26:12 And the overlapping part that is left over of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that is left over, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle.
- Exo 26:13 And the cubit on the one side and the cubit on the other side, of what is left over in the length of the curtains of the tent, shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and on that side, to cover it.
- Exo 26:14 And you shall make a covering for the tent, of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering of porpoise skins above it.
- Exo 26:15 And you shall make the boards for the tabernacle of acacia wood, standing up.
- Exo 26:16 Ten cubits shall be the length of a board, and one and a half cubits, the width of each board.
- Exo 26:17 Each board shall have two tenons, joined to one another; thus you shall do for all the boards of the tabernacle.
- Exo 26:18 And you shall make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side southward.
- Exo 26:19 And you shall make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards, two sockets under one board for its two tenons and two sockets under the next board for its two tenons.
- Exo 26:20 And for the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side, twenty boards;
- Exo 26:21 And their forty sockets of silver, two sockets under one board and two sockets under the next board.
- Exo 26:22 And for the rear of the tabernacle westward you shall make six boards.
- Exo 26:23 And two boards you shall make for the corners of the tabernacle in the rear.
- Exo 26:24 And they shall be double below, and at its top they shall be completely joined to a single ring; thus it shall be for both of them; they shall be for the two corners.
- Exo 26:25 And there shall be eight boards with their sockets of silver, sixteen sockets; two sockets under one board and two sockets under the next board.
- Exo 26:26 And you shall make bars of acacia wood, five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle,
- Exo 26:27 And five bars for the boards of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle at the rear westward.
- Exo 26:28 And the middle bar shall pass through in the center of the boards from end to end.
- Exo 26:29 And you shall overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings of gold as holders for the bars; and you shall overlay the bars with gold.
- Exo 26:30 And you shall set up the tabernacle according to its plan, which you were shown in the mountain.
- Exo 27:20 And you shall command the children of Israel to bring to you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually.
- Exo 27:21 In the Tent of Meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall maintain it in order from evening to morning before Jehovah; it shall be a perpetual statute to be observed throughout their generations by the children of Israel.
- Exo 28:1 And bring near to yourself Aaron your brother and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may serve Me as a priest—Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.
- Exo 28:2 And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.
- A. The priesthood is a body of priests who are built together to live and serve as one entity—1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10.
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- Rev 1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
- Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the

earth.

- B. Apart from the building it is impossible to have the priesthood—Exo. 25:8; 28:1-2:
- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- Exo 28:1 And bring near to yourself Aaron your brother and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may serve Me as a priest—Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.
- Exo 28:2 And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.
1. The priests are not individualistic believers but a corporate body; the priesthood is composed of priests who have been built together—Rom. 12:5, 7.
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
Rom 12:7 Or service, let us be faithful in that service; or he who teaches, in that teaching;
 2. The service of the priesthood is a body service in coordination; this corporate service is what the Lord is seeking today—Exo. 19:6; Rev. 1:6.
Exo 19:6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.
Rev 1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
 3. Without the building the priesthood will collapse; we cannot have the priesthood without the building.
- C. The priestly service is a work of being built up and of building—1 Pet. 2:5, 9:
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
1. One aspect of our work is to be built up, and another aspect is to build—Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Cor. 3:10-11; 14:26.
Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
1 Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon it. But let each man take heed how he builds upon it.
1 Cor 3:11 For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
1 Cor 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
 2. We are building by being built up; this is to genuinely serve God as priests.
 3. To serve God as priests is to build the dwelling place of God, which is also to be built up.
 4. We cannot separate the priestly service from the building; we are proper priests carrying out the genuine building work only when we are built up.
 5. Being built up into a spiritual house is the basic condition for service; we cannot serve if we are not built up—Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.
Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
 6. When we are built up into a priesthood, we can have work that is acceptable to God—v. 9.
1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired

for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

7. This is a tremendous light that we need to see: our priesthood must be the building and for the building.
- D. Since the priesthood equals the house, and the house depends on the building, the priesthood also requires the building up of the saints—vv. 5, 9:
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
1. The sequence of house and priesthood in 1 Peter 2:5 is based upon the sequence in Exodus.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
 2. Because of the need for building up, the church must be the house of God before it can be the priesthood—Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9.

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
 3. Building involves coordination; only when we are built into and coordinated into the building do we have the ground to serve the Lord.
 4. Our unique need is to be built up—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:16:

Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

 - a. The emphasis in the Bible is not on how to be holy or spiritual; instead, the emphasis is on God's building—2:21-22.

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
 - b. True spirituality is a matter of the building; without the building, the spiritual house, there is no sanctification, spirituality, or spiritual power.
 - c. The only way to be holy, spiritual, or powerful is to be built into God's building.
 - d. If we want to be protected, we need to be built into God's building; our protection is not our spirituality—it is God's building—Matt. 16:18.

Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 - e. The shortcomings in the lives of even the most spiritual Christians are due to the lack of building up—Eph. 4:16.

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

IV. God's unique goal is the building—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16:

- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- A. God's goal has always been the building—Exo. 25:8; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22.
- Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- B. For eternity God wants the New Jerusalem; today He wants the church—Rev. 21:2-3; Matt. 16:18.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- C. If we do not allow the Lord to have the building among us, we will be a failure as far as God's purpose is concerned—2 Tim. 1:9; Eph. 3:11:
- 2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
- Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
1. The reason the situation among God's people is disappointing and discouraging is the lack of building.
 2. The Lord has not yet been able to gain His goal of the building—Matt. 16:18.
Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 3. If we are off from God's goal, we will not be able to do anything for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose—7:21-23; Eph. 1:9; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9.
Matt 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.
Matt 7:22 Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, was it not in Your name that we prophesied, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name did many works of power?
Matt 7:23 And then I will declare to them: I never knew you. Depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.
Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
- D. God wants those who can dwell in oneness with His people, who can be coordinated into one entity, and who become His dwelling place—Psa. 133.
- Psa 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!
- Psa 133:2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments;
- Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there

Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

- E. We all need to see that the goal of the Lord's recovery is to recover Christ as life and everything to us so that we may be transformed and built up—Col. 3:4, 10-11; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 2:21-22:

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

1. When we are built up together, God will have the building—Matt. 16:18; Rev. 21:2-3, 10-11.

Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.

2. This building is the priesthood—1 Pet. 2:5, 9.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;