

# Why God's House Is So Important

June 13, 2021

*Is having a church building even important?*

*There is nothing innately special or holy about a building, but the saint's corporate worship of a holy God sanctifies the space.*

*Ezekiel 37:27-28 ESV*

*27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*28 Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."*

*Leviticus 26:11-12 ESV*

*11 I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you.*

*12 And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.*

*Malachi 3:13-18 ESV*

*13 "Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?'*

*14 You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts?*

*15 And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape."*

*16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.*

*17 "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.*

*18 Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.*

*Hebrews 10:23-27 ESV*

*23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*

*24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,*

*25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

*26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,*

*27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.*

## 2 Chronicles 6:1-42 ESV

1 Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.

2 But I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever."

- *The temple was the symbolic forerunner of the Church and the Church is the forerunner of heaven.*
- *As the temple was the place for God to abide among and interact intimately with His people, so is the Church and so will be heaven.*

*Matthew 18:18-20 ESV*

18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

*Ephesians 2:21-22 ESV*

21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

*Revelation 21:2-4 ESV*

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

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

## 2 Chronicles 6:3-10 ESV

3 Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood.

4 And he said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying,

5 'Since the day that I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there, and I chose no man as prince over my people Israel;

6 but I have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.'

7 Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

8 But the LORD said to David my father, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart.

9 Nevertheless, it is not you who shall build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.'

10 Now the LORD has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and I have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

- As God fulfilled His promise in the building of the temple, so God, and God alone, builds the living temple of His Church today.
- God forgive us for trying to build His Church by man's methods and wisdom, for man's glory and for man's entertainment.
- God forgive us for trying to use the Church for other purposes than what God intends.

1 Corinthians 12:12 ESV

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:18 ESV

18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

1 Corinthians 12:11 ESV

11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

**2 Chronicles 6:11 ESV**

**11 And there I have set the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with the people of Israel.**"

Hebrews 9:3-5 ESV

3 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place,

4 having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.

5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

- As with the tablets of the covenant in the temple, so is the Word of God to the Church today.
- The Word of God is the promise, the surety, the foundation, the requirements and the bond of our covenant with God.
- The Word of God must be the central focus and reason for everything we do. It is our life.

Isaiah 2:3 ESV

3 Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 ESV

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,  
4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

## 2 Chronicles 6:12-21 ESV

12 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands.

13 Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the court, and he stood on it. Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven,

14 and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart,

15 who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.

16 Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk in my law as you have walked before me.'

17 Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David.

18 "But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!

19 Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you,

20 that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.

21 And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

- God's house is a house of worship, prayer and God's Word.
- God's house is a house of holy intercourse with a holy God.
- God's house is not an activity or entertainment center, not a dating service, not a self-help clinic, not a customer base for local businesses, not to appease a guilty conscience nor vaunt your self-righteousness.

## Isaiah 56:7 ESV

7 these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

## Matthew 21:12-13 ESV

12 And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons.

13 He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 ESV

1 As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

2 And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house.

3 When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."