

# TRUTH & WONDERFUL CONSEQUENCES

## Our Riches in Christ : Study in Ephesians, Part 8c

Ephesians 2:20-22

### Sermon Notes

July 15, 2012

I. We are a *holy temple* in which God Himself dwells.

Some general observations about Paul's "building" metaphor...

A. A building or house can be a *greater* metaphor than that of citizens (19a) or family members (19b).

B. A good building must have a *solid* foundation. (cf. I Cor. 3:11; Is. 28:16; Matt. 21:42).

1. The foundation stones of God's living temple are: the apostles and the prophets with Jesus Christ being the Chief Corner Stone.

C. So, how are these stones assembled... and to what end?

1. We are "*joined together*" to become a building; a holy temple. (cf. I Cor. 12:7-8)

2. God Himself *lives* in this "temple"! (Eph. 2:22; I Cor. 3:16; cf. Acts 7:48 & John 16:7; 14:23)

### Growth Group Questions

1. OK....so you still get the standard "any ah-hahs" question this week.

2. Of the three metaphors Paul uses in Eph. 2:19-22 which one do you identify with most? Why?

3. Since all the stones are "jointly fit together", what is the effect of those who go "inactive" or "quit" or are under church discipline?

4. What we believe is built upon the solid teaching of Jesus Christ...passed down to us from the apostles and prophets. Do you believe this? Does your life show that you believe it?

5. How do we know that what has been passed down to us is really what Jesus taught?

6. Have you heard friends, others, talk about their views, beliefs or morals "evolving"? Does this "fit" with the concept that God's truth is unchanging? Can you give an example where the Bible says one thing but man says another based upon our changing culture?

7. Pastor Larry said, "...everyone in His church finds their position in his church in reference to Him." In practical terms, what do you think this means? What impact does our practice of this (or not) have on God's church?

8. Think of a picture of an ancient wall with all the different sizes and shapes of stones in it. Keep that picture in mind as a backdrop to the following question: What happens to our ability to reach the Ridge and beyond when we try to make everyone conform to our understanding of what a follower of Christ should look like? What types of people might you have a bias against? Do you think Jesus shares this bias?

9. Do you believe that God's church is still growing? Do you believe that "the gates of hell will not prevail against it"? How might the answers to these questions affect your emotions/thoughts as you hear the "news" these days?

10. Does the truth that God lives in you via His Holy Spirit affect your daily living? Please explain your answer. If you are not satisfied with your answer, what changes are needed?



Dr. Larry G. Shelton • • • Contemporary & Classic Service

A copy of today's sermon can be purchased at the Information Center  
and is also posted on our web site, [paradisecma.org](http://paradisecma.org).

Paradise Alliance Church • 6491 Clark Rd • Paradise, CA 95969 • 530.877.7069