

The Church—Temple and Pillar

Ronald D. Bryant

In the Old Testament the temple in Jerusalem was “the house of God,” for God dwelt in it among His covenant people. There His visible presence was manifested in the Shekinah in the Holy of Holies above the mercy seat. The temple, the place of meeting (God meeting man) was a type of the church. In the New Testament, those redeemed to God by Christ constitute His house. God now dwells within this house, His living temple. The temple, or house of God, is spoken of as a glory-filled temple made up of “living stones,” “built upon the foundation of the apostle and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.” The living stones are being fitted together, and presently “growing unto a hold temple in the Lord” (Eph. 2:20ff; I Cor. 3:9-17; II Cor. 6:16; Heb. 3:6; II Pet. 2:5). The members of the body of Christ fit together, not only as the people of God, but also as His living temple. Each local congregation is composed of believers joined together by God as one entity in Christ; the “house of God” in which He dwells and reveals His presence. They are a community of redeemed souls ruled by the living God.

The English word “church” is from the Greek word “*Ekklesia*,” which literally stands for those called out of the world and into a right relationship with God. The word “*Ekklesia*” is used 115 times in the New Testament. Three times it is used to designate a legislative assembly of citizens in a Greek city; twice it is used to designate the Hebrews, “congregation of the Lord”; and 110 times it is used to designate the church over which Christ is head. Of this number, 92 times it denotes a local church, and 18 times it is used of the whole church, conceived as composed of all the redeemed, who at the last form one grand assembly, or of Christians in general, as in Acts 9:31: “*So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being edified; and, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit was multiplied.*” (ASV).

- continued

For Your Information

Senior Servants

GUEST SPEAKER

Eddy has traveled to CTS this week so this week we will hear from Don Pettit and Bob Garby today.

TUESDAY NIGHT TALENTS

Tuesday Night Talents continues this week. We will continue to work on projects that have been started and work on VBS.

SUMMER SERIES

This week's summer series speaker will be Bob Horn from Harrisonburg.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held on Saturday, **July 24**. Save the date, plan to help as a teacher or Bible character, and invite your children's friends. The theme for this year is *The Life & Times of Joseph*. SIGN UP ON THE BOARD IF YOU CAN HELP OUT!! Also there are registration forms in the foyer.

Lynn Anderson
Norma Biller
Betty Buckner
Marguerite Charles
Jim Dorsett
Al Farrow
Collin Gregory
Walter & Betty Jenkins
Martha Keith
Margaret Kratz
Miriam Majors
Jo Musgrove
Grace Myers
Evelyn Scott
Elsie Smith
Ruth Stanton
Evelyn White
EV Wimmer
WJ Wood

Save Me

Save me from myself, Lord;
Save me from my need
To always run my life, Lord,
To control my every deed.

Save me from my pride, Lord,
My focus on just me;
Help me learn to serve, Lord;
Show me how to be.

Save me from the world, Lord,
When tempting things entice;
Remind me of eternity
With You, in paradise.

I give my life to you, Lord
My every need you fill;
I'm resting in my faith, Lord;
You saved me, and you always will.

NO
ON



- Annette Shrader will have surgery on August 6 at UVA.
- Lynn Anderson was in ICU at the VA with pneumonia.
- Joan Neighbors, Glen's mother, had surgery last week.

July 2010

“But God...” (9)

Announcements Fred Altizer
Song Leader (AM) David Brown
Opening Prayer (AM)
7/4 Jerry Anderson
7/11 Wayne Dixon
7/18 Mike Durham
7/25 Charlie Gwaltney

Preside at Communion Squeaky Valentine
Serve Table
Adam House, Sam Valentine
AC Janney, Mark Brooks

Closing Prayer
7/4 Danny Guard
7/11 Josh Whitlow
7/18 Don Pettit
7/25 Eric Earnhart

Song Leader (PM) Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (PM)
7/4 Jeff Durham
7/11 Don Pettit
7/18 Bradford Durham
7/25 Roger Mays

Scripture Reader Andrew Gibson
Closing Prayer (PM)
7/4 Bob Martin
7/11 Gene Benefield
7/18 Jim Harrington
7/25 Tom Rogers

Serve Table (PM)
Ethan Rogers, Garrett Durham

Song Leader (Wed) Sam Valentine
Prayer (Wed)
7/7 Tom Richardson
7/14 Marc Laplante
7/21 Ben Munsey
7/28 Jeremy White

Open/Close Bldg Lyn Shrader
Greeters Mays

Nursery Attend Leah Durham (AM)
Lisa Valentine (PM)
Ushers Curtis Oakes, John Black
Handouts Jeff Guilliams
Cameron Brown

Prepare communion
Cha Guard, Charlotte Harrington

Last weeks attendance 7/4&7/10

Bible Class— 137 Worship Service—147
Sunday Eve.— 129 Wednesday Eve.—133
Contribution—\$8676

We continue our look at some of the 44 instances in which the phrase “but God” appears in the Bible. As we have seen, it is a phrase of contrast showing that something was said, done or had occurred which was followed by something God said or did that changed the matter completely. Our study brings us to the life of Jesus.

As the Lord was preaching in Capernaum on one occasion, four men bearing their palsied friend on a stretcher opened up the roof in order to gain access to Jesus for their friend (Mk. 2:1-4). Upon seeing their dedication to their friend and their faith, Jesus stated to the palsied man, “Son, thy sins be forgiven thee” (Mk. 2:5). Certain scribes who were there reasoned in their minds, “Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins **but God** only?” (Mk. 2:7). Jesus perceived their thoughts and asked which would be easier, to heal the palsied man or to say to him that his sins were forgiven (Mk. 2:8, 9). Naturally, it would be easy to simply make the statement that someone’s sins are forgiven (any of us could utter those words). It would be another thing entirely instantly to heal a man of palsy. But, to actually forgive someone of their sins would take more than a man. It would take God. In this conclusion, the scribes were correct. So, in order to demonstrate that He could forgive sins in actuality, Jesus healed the man (Mk. 2:10-12).

This miracle of Jesus should have been sufficient to demonstrate to them the very point they were making in their own minds. As it would take an act of God to heal one of such a physical malady, so it would take One Who is God to forgive sins. Jesus was/is that individual. Their own prophets had foretold of Him (Is.7:14). They should have recognized Him instantly, but refused to accept Him.

Indeed, no one can forgive sins “but God.” Have your sins been “washed away” (Acts 22:16) in the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5)? Just as God alone can forgive sins, He can do so only through the plan He has devised to save man’s soul- the gospel plan of salvation. Have you obeyed the gospel (II Thes. 1:8)?

-Eddy