

Family, Body, Temple / People, place, presence

PRESENCE: Garden - Tabernacle - Temple - Christ - Pentecost - Church

- Does God's spirit fill individuals or the church? Both. Not project self, but our lives make up the church. We are the only eternal thing about this place.
- What does it look like for God to live with us here in the church era? How do we build this place?

FOUNDATIONS

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Grace fueled skill, wisdom, and mastery of Paul's foundation. Necessary to build anything.

Matthew 7:24–27 - ²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

- Do you have the foundation of your life set as Jesus Christ and what he has done? Do you then live like it?

- The tension of assurance (Romans 8) and devotion (2 Peter). Both exist in following Jesus; they don't negate each other.

Romans 8:38–39 - ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 1:10–11 - ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

INDIVIDUALS & CHURCH (HEAR & DO)

Do you live from a place of forgiveness?

Do you live from a place of truth and honesty?

Do you live in communion with Jesus?

- We stand on the shoulders of the faithful. The foundation laid is and always has been Jesus Christ.
 - Vineyard & flannel, prayer & preaching, Sunday school & small groups. It's always been him and him alone.
- A foundation is meant to be built upon. If you don't have a good foundation, you nothing else matters.
 - But a foundation can't keep you warm, house loved ones, etc. Must be built upon.

BUILDING

¹²Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

- God cares deeply about the places that house his presence

1 Chronicles 29:1–5 (ESV) 29 And David the king said to all the assembly, “Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the Lord God. 2 So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble. 3 Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God: 4 3,000 talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house, 5 and for all the work to be done by craftsmen, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver. Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?”

- Paul also pulled from expectations of his current day

David Garland - One ancient contract (IG VII.3073), which may be regarded as typical, outlines the responsibilities of the contractor: He shall work continually, shall hire enough skilled craftsmen, and is warned, along with any who take part in the work, against dealing fraudulently. He is also warned about damage to the existing temple or damage to materials and is required to repair anything that is destroyed. Payments and fines are clearly spelled out, and the work must be demonstrated to be worthy... The warning “Let each one take heed how he or she is building upon it” (3:10; cf. 10:12) expresses the main point. The church's members can only add what the foundation will bear and “must not exceed the limits, or introduce confusions which would change the character of the building, so as to threaten its eventual collapse” (Derrett 1997: 133). They must use fit materials and follow the plans of the architect (who is God, not Paul) who has established the building code. Any building additions to the foundation must conform to the cruciform blueprint of Christ's ministry.

TUBBS FIRE / FOUNTAIN GROVE / STEVE / JORDAN

- **BIG IDEA:** The work of building our lives and our church will, at some point, be tested, and tested thoroughly.

- Those who build well according to the blueprint will be rewarded, possibly in this life but especially in the life to come.
- Those who do not build well, or build carelessly, as if hay and straw are sufficient, will be refined.

- How we build our lives matters. How we build our community matters.

- It's not a question of whether or not the building is happening (it is), but the quality of the build.
- We must build as if our lives will be tested, because they will be. **Vacation mode always.**

- *Romans 14:12 - ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.*

- *2 Corinthians 5:10 - ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

Refined by fire (consequence for folly) or rewarded for furnishing.

- *Psalms 66:10–12 - ¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. ¹¹You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs; ¹²you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.*

- *Isaiah 43:1–2 - ¹But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.*

Self & Church - what are we building? *Gospel touches all of these.*

What are you meditating on?

What habits and hobbies are you devoted to?

What are the diets of your life?

What is the spiritual temperature in your home?

How is your financial stewardship

Is your family flourishing or are they on the altar of your ambitions?

~~- the gospel touches all of these!~~

DWELLING

¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

We are temples and we are THE temple.

- Ephesians 2:18–22 - ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

God cares deeply about the place his presence dwells.

- R. E. Clements - For Yahweh to be the God of Israel means that he dwells in their midst... Israel only becomes Israel when Yahweh dwells in its midst.

God is violently opposed to those who oppose his temple.

- 2 Thessalonians 1:5–8 - ⁵This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— ⁶since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

This book has been showing us what and who we are, no matter what we think or feel.

How do you view yourself and how do you view this church? This is vitally important. We need a clearer vision for our lives.

A building is just a building. What makes it something is what fills it.

We are not a concession prize of a God who gave up. Read your OT! We are the final dwelling place for the Spirit of God before he completes the work of making all things new!

May we live and build and relate with the Spirit that dwells and longs to sweep across our lives.

Buildings take a long time