

## **The Church - The House Of The Living God**

### **Bible Study – Pastor Charles A. Hall – June-20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

- **The Church:** Is the gathering of people indwelt by the Spirit of God, not the building! Also referred to as those that are called.
- **The Physical Church:** There are many verses in the Holy Bible that refers to the physical church as the “house of God.” and the household of God. It is also referred to as the church of the living God, the pillar and the foundation of the truth. The physical meeting place for those indwelt with the spirit of God. The physical church is like the physical manifestation of Christ, (His body).
- **The Spiritual Church:** A Gathering of Believers filled with the Holy Spirit worshipping and praising God in spirit and in truth. Should be synonymous with the church.
- **The Temple:** Any place that the Spirit of God dwells.

Have you ever asked yourself the question, why is there a physical church and a spiritual church? The answer is simple, because we as believers are the spiritual dwelling house of God in physical form. So while we are in our physical bodies, we need a physical place to gather! The physical church is the place where the spirit filled people of God gather to worship God in Spirit and in truth. When we leave our physical bodies, we will no longer need a physical place to gather.

- **1 Peter 2:5** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 3:16** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-14** (12) For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. (13) For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (14) For the body is not one member, but many.

We know from the Word of God found in the holy bible that God is omnipresent, He is everywhere at the same time. We also know from the Word of God that God refers to His earthly church as His dwelling place. In other words, it is where the spirit of the Living God resides. The apostle Paul states that the church is the house of God, and he further states that everyone that enters God’s house should know how to properly conduct themselves, and those in leadership position should know how to manage church affairs in according to God’s rules and mandates. The Spirit of God moved upon Paul to give this direction because the church belongs to God, and it is the pillar (support) and ground (foundation) of the truth. If the church leadership and members affairs and activities fail to conform to the standard set forth in the Word of God, the barrier of the church which is the truth will be seriously undermined and damaged. Since the church is God’s dwelling place and God is at opposition with the things of the world, we should not bring things, activities or events of the world in God’s house.

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- **1 Timothy 3:15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
- **James 4:4** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

The apostle Paul in his writing in the epistle of Ephesians describes the church as the dwelling place of God. A place where God can rest and trust. Christ expands the church by growing in the hearts of believers and by making their hearts His home.

- **Ephesians 2:19-22** (19) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. (20) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; (21) In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: (22) In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

In the epistle of Romans the unknown author described the church as the family of God, a place where people who know God refer to Him as their father, and acknowledge each other as brothers and sisters.

- **Romans 8:14-17** (14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (15) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (17) And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

If believers are the temple of God, then why is it important for believers to come together in a physical place of worship? Because the word of God says followers of Jesus Christ come together physically to promote love and bring about good work. The word of god also stress that the worshipping together help us to encourage each other, especially as we get closer to the last days.

- **Hebrews 10:24-25** (24) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.