

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – May 1-6 ***Doing Life Together – A Solid Building***

MONDAY: Psalm 118:22, 1 Peter 2:4,5

KEY VERSE: Ephesians 2:19-22

OBSERVATION The temple in the Old Testament was a huge, magnificent building where God lived. God's people could go to the temple and know they were near to God. But now, because of Jesus, we don't have to go to some big temple to worship God, instead the Bible tells us that God's people are a "temple of the Holy Spirit". This means that God dwells within His people by the Holy Spirit. This image of the church as the new temple is built upon the foundation, the cornerstone of Jesus.

TUESDAY: Revelation 15:8, Numbers 9:16, 1 Kings 8:10

KEY VERSE: Exodus 40:34-35

OBSERVATION: So what would a church have to do to display the presence of God? Its people would have to live like Him! Dynamics like hospitality, the loving acceptance of all kinds of people, a quickness to serve, a tangible love for one another that makes people feel safe and included regardless of color or class, and a patient tolerance of one another's weaknesses would all be a great way to start. Paul said we should walk in a manner "worthy of the Lord" (Col. 1:10 [Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)]). And he also said that being worthy means that we will be humble, gentle, bearing with one another in love, eagerly maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

WEDNESDAY: Proverbs 9:1, Ephesians 2:22

KEY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 3:9-16

OBSERVATION: This is the first use of the word church in the New Testament (or the Bible for that matter), using the ancient Greek word ekklesia. Significantly, this was well before the beginnings of what we normally think of as the church on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. This shows that Jesus was anticipating or prophesying what would come from these disciples/apostles and those who would believe in their message that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

THURSDAY: Matthew 7:24, Revelation 3:7

KEY VERSE: Matthew 16:16-19

OBSERVATION: We can surmise that this was an understanding that Peter and the other disciples came to over time. In the beginning, they were attracted to Jesus as a remarkable and unusual rabbi. They committed themselves to Him as His disciples or students, as was practiced in that day. Yet over time Peter - and presumably other of the disciples by this point - understood that Jesus was in fact not only the Messiah (the Christ), but also the Son of the living God.

FRIDAY: 2 Corinthians 6:16, 2 Timothy 2:19

KEY VERSE: 1 Timothy 3:15

OBSERVATION: Paul is not referring to "the church" as the source of truth or the creator of truth. He's saying "the church" is what holds up and holds firm the truth in the world. The ultimate basis of that truth is Christ, not the proclamations or infallibility of members of that body. Paul is calling on believers to care for the structure that "supports" or "props up" our message to the world. First Timothy 3:15 cannot be taken to mean that the church itself is the source or standard for truth.

SATURDAY: Hebrews 10:1, Mark 14:58, Hebrews 9:24

KEY VERSE: Hebrews 9:9-14

OBSERVATION: The inspired writer of the Letter to the Hebrews referring to the Jerusalem Temple that was still standing at the time of his message: ...it is a symbol for this present time. None of the gifts and sacrifices offered under these regulations can possibly bring any worshipper to perfection in his conscience; they are rules about outward life, connected with food and drink and washing at various times, which are in force only until the time comes to set things right. But now Christ has come, as the high priest of all the blessings which were to come. He has passed through the greater, the more perfect tent, not made by human hands, that is, not of this created order; and he has entered the Sanctuary once and for all, taking with him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but his own blood, having won an eternal redemption.