

Sermon Series Notes

REDEMPTION

A STUDY IN EZRA



"The Foundation For God's Temple" (Ezra 3:7-13)

Danny Hodges OT2330

I. THE TEXT

II. LESSONS

A. Looking Back At God's Work Rather Than Ahead

* Eccl. 7: 10 Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions.

* God always plans to do greater things in the future see Haggai 2:3-9a;

B. The Importance Of A Proper Foundation

* The foundation is the most important part of any structure

* See Matthew 7:21-27

C. The New Testament Temple

1. Our bodies are God's temple

* I Cor.3: 16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

* I Cor.6: 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

* Eph.2: 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

* II Cor.7: 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

2. The foundation of the New Testament temple is Jesus Christ (I Cor.3:9-11).

D. Building Upon The Foundation Of Jesus Christ

1. I have a choice in how I build upon the foundation (I Cor.3:12-17).

* The wood, hay and stubble are contrasted with things that are costly, hard to come by (involves sacrifice to attain them), are enduring,

2. How we build upon the foundation determines the potential future glory of the structure.

E. Materials That Do Not Result In Glory

* Sexual sin (weekend message) In order to overcome sexual temptation/sin, we must deny our flesh. There are other sins that involve denying the flesh, and one that some of us do not want to talk about. Some of us could say "Amen" to the weekend message because we are living in victory over fleshly sin in regard to sexual immorality. But what was the very first sin of the flesh that got Adam and Eve in trouble?

* Phil.3: 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

* I Cor.6: 13 "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"--but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

* Gluttony (Prov.28:7; 23:2, 20-21)

- Limit your intake of food (do not overeat!)
- Eat to live, but don't live to eat
- Fast on some kind of regular basis (Matt.6:16-18)

* Unhealthy eating habits

- Fast food, etc.

* Laziness

- Titus 1: 12 Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."

- Eccl.10: 18 If a man is lazy, the rafters sag; if his hands are idle, the house leaks.

- Heb.6: 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

- Matt.25: 26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant!

* Improper motives

- I Cor.4: 5 He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts.

- Phil.1: 15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

* Hypocrisy

- Luke 16: 13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.

15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.

* Pride

- III John 9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us.

10 So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

F. Materials That Do Result In Glory

* Consecration (Rom. 12:2)

* Humility

* Purity

* Self-control

* See II Peter 1:5-8

G. Some Final Thoughts

1. The priority of taking care of the inside of the temple

* Outwardly impressive temples may have inward problems.

* Matt. 24:1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

* While I believe it is important for a Christian to be self-controlled in eating habits and seek to stay physically fit, the more important issues are not physical but spiritual. The most important aspect of my life is not what people see on the outside, but rather what I am on the inside.

* I Tim.4: 8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

* You could be a Gold's Gym poster person, but if there are problems on the inside of your temple, it will affect the potential of future glory for your temple.

2. God's impressive plans for unimpressive temples

* Haggai 2:9; God delights in taking things that are unimpressive to man and do a glorious thing.

* Man looks at the outward David

* Isa nothing to attract us to him

* You're in good company if your temple is not impressive to the world

CONCLUSION

* Has the foundation of Jesus Christ been laid in your life? Do you have the Holy Spirit living inside you?

* For those of us who have the foundation of Jesus Christ in our lives, how are we building upon that foundation? What am I doing to take care of my temple, both inwardly and outwardly?