

## GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

### Part VII

#### Ephesians 2:1-10

Introduction: We are living in perilous and uncertain times. Not only are people untrusting about those in charge of our country, but they are also dubious of some of the church leadership. World affairs cause a fear of chaos at home and abroad. While we are satiated with uncertain news, juxtaposed to that is the good news that God is judiciously building a *sure house* which is to be the place of refuge from the storm. God has an auspicious and glorious purpose which He intends to accomplish in and through His house on the earth today. If the body of Christ is going to demonstrate the glory of God to the nations, it is imperative and vital that every member of the body of Christ be in his or her place of function and take his or her respective responsibility seriously. God's glorious purpose for His body and His dynamic plan for its construction is evident in the Word of God. His tremendous concern is for the active involvement of every member in the ministry that God has called them to. *1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9-10*.

#### I. God's magnificent idea

- A. His body on earth – the temple of God. God has given to man visual pictures by which He can better communicate His mind to man. We have seen God give man a picture of the church by saying it was made up of a *peculiar people*. *1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:5-10*.
  1. God's husbandry. *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:9* (Amplified). "...You are God's garden and vineyard and field under cultivation, [you are] God's building." Another translation says that we are "God's tilled soil..."
  2. We are the congregation of the saints. *Psalms 149:1; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 2:12; Ephesians 2:21-22*. Beginning with Adam and Eve, God had a desire to have a warm relationship with man. With the coming of Moses and the formation of Israel as a nation, God again displayed His desire to fellowship with men. *Exodus 25:8*.
    - a. In God's dealings with man, His presence went from one tent to another tent; and from one tabernacle to another. *1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 17:5*. God continued to make provision for fellowship with man in the tabernacle of David. *1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 15:1*. The temple of Solomon. *1<sup>st</sup> Kings 8:8, 13*.
    - b. When Jesus came, He came as the tabernacle of God. Jesus also came to build another house, the church, which would also be the temple of God. *John 2:19-21*. While the church is God's present dwelling place, it shall one day soon give place to the New Jerusalem. *Revelation 21:1-3*.
    - c. The cornerstone. *Isaiah 28:16; Ephesians 2:19-22*. The cornerstone gives stability to the building as well as alignment to adjoining walls. Christ is the head of the corner. Christ is the tried stone to whom the whole building is to be aligned.
    - d. Christ is the one who has broken down the middle wall of partition separating Jew and gentile and has reconciled both walls into one, becoming the head of the corner.
    - e. The other meaning of the word cornerstone gives the idea that it is the head of the corner. In this sense it refers to the final stone in a building. In Roman architecture, that was the keystone. It was the last stone to be placed which gave strength and stability to the whole. It is the final stone that completed the work and bound the whole thing together.
    - f. Christ is the capstone, the keystone, or the headstone of the temple of God. Christ is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the Ending, the Alpha and Omega. *Revelation 1:11*. Christ is the author and finisher of our faith. *Hebrews 12:2*. Christ is the hub, the apex, the acme. In Him is a plethora of everything that is good, and He is the one who will bring completion to the temple of God. It is by him that all things consist. *Colossians 1:17, 2:9*.

Conclusion: We are aligned with the most important family on earth. We each have an assignment and are an integral part of the temple of God. By placing us in the body, He has given us an honor that no man on earth can give. We have been chosen by Him to represent Him on earth. We are the carriers of the most important message that the world will ever hear. We must take our unique position to heart and passionately serve Him with all that is within us.