

2 Timothy 2:19-21

A Great House

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

In verse 19 Paul has just given us a great and high definition of the Church, as consisting of those who belong to God and are on the way to righteousness.

A) But the obvious question arises: How do you explain the existence of heretics and false teachers like Hymenaeus and Philetus?

B) Paul's reply answers the question: Paul compares the church to a great house –

1) In the great house there are different kinds of Vessels.

C) Vessels of dishonor / vessels of honor.

1) IN those days – vessels of wood and clay – used for dishonorable purposes – trash / human waste

D) After they were used – broken and discarded

Vessels of Gold and silver – were used to eat from / they were used to present things.

A) Paul's pt. is this: Just like in a great house there are both types of Vessels.

B) There has always been a mixture: Wheat / tares

1) Sheep & goats / Wolves amongst the sheep.

C) The Lord knows those who are His.

1) The false teachers and those living hypocritical lives – would be the vessels of dishonor.

D) Who when they are discovered need to be discarded – like the dishonorable vessel.

But even those who truly belong to the Lord. – Before they can be an honorable vessel/ 1st need to be cleansed.

A) What is clean and set apart for special use can easily get contaminated and be rendered unusable through **contact with the corrupt.**

B) Paul was concerned that Timothy keep himself in a usable condition for the Lord.

1) Cleanse yourself from the Latter- False teachers and those Practicing iniquity.

C) Cleanses Himself is an interesting phrase that reminds us that we have a part to play in our Sanctification

1) Justification: Salvation: Position before the Lord, Righteous

D) Sanctification: Practical living – Right choices:

1) Result: Makes us Fit and usable, prepared for the Master's use.

Before we close today: I want us to consider this Phrase Paul uses to describe the Church.

A) A GREAT HOUSE! – A good description– the Church is a great house. Why?

1. It is a **great house because of *who it belongs to.***

B) We belong to God- All thru the OT – the Tab / the Temple – described as the place where God put His name!

C) He placed His name!

1) Not a Building – but God's people being built together

1 Peter 2:4-5

As you come to Christ, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. NIV

2. It is a **great house because it is planned and designed on a great scale. It has the most brilliant Architect**

A) It is a great house because – God designed it – Made up of people, all different nations / tongues/ tribes

B) Rich poor / everyone in between – brought together as a family – before the Lord.

3. It is a great house because of the great cost it took to build it.

A) It is a house that is far more valuable than any building ever built on earth-

B) The cost was the precious Blood of God's Beloved Son!

1) He took on our sin / paid our price /

C) Result: Thru faith in Jesus we could become Beloved sons and daughters of God.

4. It is a great house because of its importance.

A) This house and what happens in it is at the center of God's plan of the ages.

B) Bring the message of Salvation to a lost and dying world – Spread the good news of Christ –

1) God wants to use us – to share w/ the World – His hope/ His love/ His gospel.

C) You are the Church – This place & the New Building is simply a place where the Church gathers

1) Where outsiders can come – be healed – touched

Trash transfer station – Dirty cleansed.

D) Close: By asking you to turn to 2 Chron. 6 –

Picture of what the Church – the Building and the people are to be!

2 Chronicles 6:19-40

19 Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You: 20 that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place where You said You would put Your name, that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. 21 And may You hear the supplications of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and when You hear, forgive.

A place where Prayers are heard and forgiveness from sin takes place.

22 "If anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple, 23 then hear from heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, bringing retribution on the wicked by bringing his way on his own head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

The Church is a place where Strife gets healed!

24 "Or if Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and return and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication before You in this temple, 25 then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to them and their fathers.

A place where those who are defeated & beat up in the battle can come to repent and be forgiven / revived / restored.

26 "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, 27 then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.

A place where those going thru dry times can be refreshed.

28 "When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemies besiege them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is; 29 whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows his own burden and his own grief, and spreads out his hands to this temple: 30 then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of the sons of men), that they may fear You, to walk in Your ways as long as they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

A place where those who are Hungry, get fed.

32 "Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for the sake of Your great name and Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm, when they come and pray in this temple; then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.

A place where those who are Foreigners {unbelievers} find a home and family.

34 "When Your people go out to battle against their enemies, wherever You send them, and when they pray to You toward this city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name, 35 then hear from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

A place where those who are in the Battle find strength and a refuge.

36 "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they **take them captive to a land far or near**; 37 yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were **carried captive**, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their **captivity, saying**, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, and have committed wickedness'; 38 and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been carried captive, and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and toward the temple which I have built for Your name: 39 then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You. 40 Now, my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and let Your ears be attentive to the prayer made in this place.

A place where those who are captives, get set free.