

January 10, 2010

God In Us.

In 1Kings 8:27 King Solomon said, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built." This verse is part of Solomon's prayer of dedication for the new temple. Solomon is greatly overwhelmed by two facts : (1) God's infinite magnitude ("the highest heaven cannot contain You"); (2) God's willingness to condescend to dwell in the temple he built.

Solomon's temple was a prophetic type of the new covenant temple (church) Christ is building. This temple is being built with "living stones" (1Pet.2:5). These living stones are those whom Christ is saving. There are three Biblical pictures to this temple Christ is building.

Firstly, it is universal and it is being built. Christ promised, "I will build My church." (Matt.16:18). In Eph.2:21 Paul wrote, "in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord." This temple of living stones is a living and dynamic structure that continues to grow by God's gracious power. Vs.22 points to the fact that God dwells in the temple through His Spirit.

Secondly, this temple is the local church congregation. Paul points to this fact in 1Cor.3:16. He wrote, "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" In 2Cor.6:16 Paul wrote, "we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

Thirdly, this temple is every individual believer in Christ. In 1Cor.6:19 Paul wrote, "do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...?" God has condescended to dwell in us individually and corporately. (2Tim.1:14; Rom.8:9). Jesus promised, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him." (Jn.14:23). God is for us. God is in us. Does this truth

overwhelm you as it did Solomon? Solomon built his temple. God has saved you and transformed you into His temple and dwells in you. Hallelujah, what a God! What an astounding blessing! What a holy privilege! God in us!