

Purpose and Destiny – Part 5

Eph. 2:19-22.

–A foundational principle of wisdom and spiritual warfare:

•*If you want to know what God's will is, just observe where the enemy has concentrated his attack.*

–God's will has always been to *raise up a spiritual habitation made of living stones in which to tabernacle and reveal His glory to creation.*

➤ The enemy's primary assault is here!

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Eph. 2:19-22.

–Example:

•For years *Christians have been awakened to the necessity of unity in the body of Christ.*

–But it's obvious that *this does NOT mean just getting together for conferences, meetings, rallies, etc, because little has changed....*

–*Being "assembled" does not mean just coming to meetings!*

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A Pile of Stones or a Temple?

–According to Eph. 2:19-22, the church is to be a *habitation where His manifest presence dwells, and His kingdom is established, and through which it is extended.*

–This temple is BUILT, not just piled up!

•The living stones are to be *gathered.*

•They are to be *prepared – built up and placed.*

•This is to be done by *spiritual fathers/builders.*

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A Pile of Stones or a Temple?

–A *pile of living stones called out of the world or the religious system is not enough.*

- There must be built a spiritual house where all function together as a habitation FOR Him alone.*



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1 Cor. 3:5-17.

–*What keeps this habitation for His manifest presence from being built?*

- First, a religious system that has “professional” preachers and administrators that submit to and empower “consumer” Christianity – they supply what the people want or demand and are not building for God alone.*

–Most is *done in ignorance* because they are replicating what they have experienced or been taught by the system.



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1 Cor. 3:5-17.

–*What keeps this habitation for His manifest presence from being built?*

- Whether purposefully out of control, or in ignorance, *this keeps a well-funded status quo.*
- It remains a wine-skin that is impossible to contain and embody His presence and power* (this is the history of revival).
- This system is NOT concerned with His will or glory, but only what people can get out of it.*



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What keeps this habitation for His manifest presence from being built?

–**Second**, a wrong conception of “church.”

•The mindset is that the **church is a movement or sect working toward an individual vision or goal that makes it “special”**. (**Partly true**).

•The church is supposed to be a **living, spiritual body united by the lordship of Jesus**, and **making Him and His will known** (put on display) in **everything that is done**.



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What keeps this habitation for His manifest presence from being built?

–**Third**, a wrong understanding of the five-fold ministry.



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Five-fold Purpose:

–**Matt. 16:18**: “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will **build** My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

–“**Build**” (oikodomeo) means “**to build a house**” (it’s an **architectural term**).

•This **means something that happens to and with the individual building material and not FOR it**.



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Five-fold Purpose:

–The Lord raises up **MATURE**, gifted builders (fathers – Eph. 4:11-16) who are to perfect and craft each stone and set it in its designated place in this living **TEMPLE**.

•They are not here to help each individual living stone **“find themselves”** and go off and do their own independent, individual thing.

•This is an **enemy tactic** that keeps us **self-centered and distracted**, which will usually get us into bondage where we cannot fulfill our design.



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Five-fold Purpose:

–These builders begin to shape and cut each stone until it's character and gifting are perfected (matured), and it fits into a certain place designated by the Lord Himself.

•As this happens, the stone begins to reflect the multifaceted glory of the Lord shining from within (Rev. 21:14-27).

•These builders, operating in their High Calling are developing others in their Specific Calling to bring each to their individual and corporate High Calling – to put His glory on display!



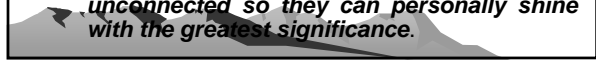
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Five-fold Purpose:

–The present, man-centered system cannot build living stones to fulfill their designed High Calling.

•People are either taught to be dependent upon the “professionals” who are caught in a system of trying to FIX everyone instead of training them to overcome, get in place and get connected to the Head.

•Or, in reaction, there are living stones who want to remain independent and unconnected so they can personally shine with the greatest significance.



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1Kings 6:7: “And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.”

–Where there is the noise of the hammer, chisel and saw, the temple has not been erected.

•The temple is NOT where people are still being trained, shaped, polished, complaining, resisting, etc.



Purpose and Destiny – Part 5

1Kings 6:7.

–The **corporate temple cannot be built** (which means the glory cannot come) **until the individual living stones allow themselves to be fashioned and shaped in the quarry of servanthood** and their **Specific Callings** under the guidance of spiritual fathers (if one can be found!).

•Until this training and maturity comes, we cannot be PLACED.

•The living stone does not come out of the quarry until it's ready!