

## **EVENING DEVOTIONS**

**Tuesday, 17 March 2026**

**Text: 2 Corinthians 6**

**Title: "You are the temple of the living God"**

**2 Corinthians 6:16**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. A secular concept of the Church
  - a) As a social organization
  - b) Membership like a Community Centre
  - c) Little or no responsibility to be expected from members apart from Baptism
2. A Biblical Theology of the Church is of utmost importance
  - a) The Church from God's Perspective
  - b) The Church from the standpoint of the Scriptures

### **ESSENTIAL DESCRIPTIVE FEATURES OF THE CHURCH**

(Ephesians)

#### **1. Body**

The Church is the Body of the Lord Jesus Christ      Ephesians 1:22-23

#### **2. Household**

The household of God      Ephesians 2:19

#### **3. Temple**

A holy temple in the Lord      Ephesians 2:21

#### **4. A Dwelling Place**

A dwelling place of God in the Spirit      Ephesians 2:22

#### **5. A Bride**

The Church as the Bride of the Lamb      Ephesians 5; Revelation 21:9

#### **6. Golden Lampstand**

The Golden lampstands are churches      Revelation 1:20

### **A HOLY TEMPLE I**

<sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field; *you are* God's building.

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

<sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

<sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

<sup>13</sup> each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

<sup>14</sup> If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.

<sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

<sup>17</sup> If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

### **1. Further Descriptions of the Church**

- a) God's field
- b) God's building
- c) Temple of God
- d) The Spirit of God dwells in the church

### **2. The danger**

- a) Defiling of the Church
- b) Division of the Church
- c) Discipline from the Lord
- d) Destruction of the Church
  - i) The unrepentant sinner
  - ii) The Church

## **A HOLY TEMPLE II**

<sup>14</sup> Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

<sup>15</sup> And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

<sup>16</sup> And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will dwell in them  
And walk among *them*.  
I will be their God,  
And they shall be My people.”

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

### **1. What accord?**

- a) Righteousness with Lawlessness
- b) Light with Darkness
- c) Christ the Lord with Belial
- d) Temple of God with idols

### **2. A reminder**

- a) We are the Temple of the living God
- b) The Church cannot be a Holy Temple of the living God if it chooses to walk in the paths of sin
- c) The Church must ever seek to maintain its commitment to be Holy

## **THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR Revelation 2-3**

### **1. There were 7 Churches identified**

- a) Five Churches were given strong words of admonition
- b) Only Two churches were commended by the Lord
- c) These Churches were addressed by the Lord Jesus

## **2. The Five Churches were faulted along the following lines:**

- a) The Church in Ephesus
  - i) It had left its first love      Revelation 2:4
  - ii) The church had “fallen”      Revelation 2:5
  - iii) If it is unrepentant, it would be removed      Revelation 2:5
- b) The Church in Pergamos
  - i) Wrong teachings had been allowed
  - ii) The doctrine of Balaamism      Revelation 2:14
- c) The Church in Thyatira
  - i) The influence of evil Jezebel
  - ii) Many were affected by her worldly ways      Revelation 2:20-23
- d) The Church in Sardis
  - i) A dead church
  - ii) A spiritually inert Church      Revelation 3:1
- e) The Church in Laodicea
  - i) A lukewarm church
  - ii) A wretched, miserable, poor and blind church      Revelation 3:17

### **THE CHURCH AS THE LORD DESIGNED IT**

<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:18-19

1. The Lord Himself will build the Church
2. It will be built upon the Lord Jesus as the Bedrock

3. The gates of Hades cannot Prevail against the Church

### **OUR CHALLENGE**

<sup>1</sup>I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

<sup>2</sup>with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

<sup>3</sup>endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

<sup>4</sup>*There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

<sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

<sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:1-6

1. Walk worthy of our Calling

2. Guard the Oneness of the Church

3. Grow in further strength