



2019: “Rise Up and Build”

Building the temple of God

Ephesians 2:12-22

Something holy from something common

- 1 Kings 5-8 – combining physical materials to create a holy dwelling place for God
 - Its true purpose: 1 Kings 8:27-30
- God's new, more glorious temple, Eph. 2:12-22
 - “For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.” – 1 Corinthians 3:17

Does our work end once the building is complete?

God's physical temple over time

- Damage by neglect (2 Kings 12)
- Damage by compromise (2 Kings 18)
- Damage by corruption (2 Kings 22)
- Damage to purpose (Matt. 21:12-13)

God's spiritual temple can suffer the same fate without continued work!

Warnings of the First Century church

- To Ephesus: “Remember from where you have fallen ... do the works you did at first.”
- To Sardis: “You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead. ... Strengthen what remains and is about to die...”
- To Laodicea: “Because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say I am rich, I have prospered...”

When our bodies stop growing, what starts happening?

What stirs godly people to build?

- Noah
- David
- Nehemiah
- A vision based on faith
- A desire to glorify God
- A zeal and concern for God's people

- Babel
- Jeroboam
- Diotrephes
- A vision of human achievement
- A desire to please people first
- A zeal to control and promote self

Rise up and build:

Ensure our Foundations

Mature as Individuals

Grow as a Family

Build for the Future

Four aspects of growing the Lord's church

Checking our foundation

Growing as individuals

Growing together

Building for the future

- 1 Cor. 3:11, Eph. 2:20
- Hebrews 12:1-2: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...

Four aspects of growing the Lord's church

Checking our
foundation

**Growing as
individuals**

Growing
together

Building for
the future

- Romans 12:1-2: Transforming, not conforming
- 2 Peter 3:17-18: You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (Heb. 6:1)

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- Col. 2:19: “... from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.”
- Ephesians 4:14-16: “so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro ... grow up in every way into him who is the head ... when each part is working properly, makes the body grow”
- Spiritual growth is under our control, numeric growth may not be!

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**Building for
the future**

- 2 Tim. 2:2: ... entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- 2 Timothy 3:15: ... from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4 ... will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

If we really want the church to grow...

- We have to have a zeal for God's purpose, not just for God
- We have to love God's people, not just being one of God's people
- We have to be willing to do more, not just what we've always done

How will our work together glorify God this year?