

The Psalms of Ascents

A Testimony of the Maturity of Life—Caring for the Building Up of God’s Dwelling Place, the Church (2)

Week 8 – Monday

1 Pet. 2:4-5 – Footnote 4¹

First Peter 2:4-5 says, “Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” Peter heard the matter of stones for the Lord’s building from the Lord, so in these verses he clearly presented the revelation he had received. What God desires the most today is to gain a dwelling place, a resting place, among His children. This building will become the spiritual house for God so that we can become a holy priesthood who can offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. This is the reason why we are redeemed and living in the church life today.

When the church is being built, both God’s ark and we ourselves can enter into His resting place. When our desire is for this, God’s desire and our desire are one; our desire is in tune with God’s desire. Psalm 132 verses 7 and 8 say, “Let us go into His tabernacle; Let us worship at His footstool. Arise, O Lord, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength.” The ark (Christ) is the center of God’s dwelling place. Here “His footstool” refers to the ark (because in God’s tabernacle, only Christ, typified by the ark, can be worshipped by man). The psalmist found the ark—Christ, and brought the ark into God’s tabernacle—the church (1 Chron. 15:1). The ark has become the center and reality of the church life. The ark represents Christ and the dwelling place represents the church. When the ark enters into the tabernacle, it becomes the center of the tabernacle. In other words, Christ becomes the center of the church.

There is nothing else in the church but Christ; there is no one but Christ. Christ is the ark of testimony in God’s tabernacle. There is nothing else here; only Christ is the center. When we come together in the church life, our center is Christ. We have nothing else but Christ; everything else will disappear in the church life. When the Lord was transfigured in front of His disciples on the mountain, Moses and Elijah appeared and were speaking with the Lord concerning the things that were about to happen in Jerusalem. When Peter saw the Lord in glory and realized that the ones speaking with the Lord were the historic figures of Moses and Elijah, it is hard to describe how excited Peter must have been. He was seeing and hearing Jesus, Moses and Elijah. He wanted to keep all three of them together forever, so he said, “I will make three tents, one for You, Lord, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was speaking like this, so excited that he must have been jumping around, all of a sudden a cloud came and overshadowed them so that they could see nothing. Suddenly they were afraid and a voice came from heaven saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” (Matt. 17:5). When they opened their eyes, they could see no one except Jesus; Moses and Elijah were gone. The only one left was our Lord Jesus Christ.