

The Psalms of Ascents

Week 7 – Thursday

Eph. 4:13-16

When we read Psalm 132 we can see that David's experience had already reached the pinnacle; he had already gone through all the dealings that God gave him. He went through all kinds of afflictions in his environments, so we can say that he was broken in God's hands. He no longer lived by himself, so he had reached the maturity of life. His heart was no longer haughty, his eyes were not lofty, and he did not desire to know great and wondrous things. His heart had become calm and quiet like a weaned child with his mother. These things are the expression of maturity in life. A person like that who is mature in life can testify that what he cares for is God's dwelling place. This is something that really pleases God.

God is very pleased when we care for the building of His dwelling place, that is, the building of the church. The Lord once declared, "I will build the church upon this rock" (Matt. 16:18). The Lord builds His church through the saints according to the revelation in the epistles. In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul said that he was God's coworker and that the church is God's field, God building. Paul also said that he was a wise mater builder who laid the foundation of the church and we need to build upon it (v. 10). Each of us needs to build on this foundation.

Ephesians 2 tells us that the building is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone that fit all the building together so that it can gradually grow into the temple of God to become God's dwelling place in spirit (vv. 20-22). This is a very important revelation in the Bible. Chapter 4 reveals that God has given many gifts to the church to perfect the saints to work according to their measure to build up the body of Christ (vv. 11-12). For this, we need to diligently keep the oneness of the Spirit. We need to be diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit until we also arrive at the oneness of the faith, until we become a full grown man, until we reach the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be children tossed to and fro by every wind of teaching. We need to hold onto the truth in love until we grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ. Then the whole body will gradually build itself up in love according to the function in measure of each one part (vv. 13-16). This is the central revelation in the whole Bible. According to the revelation of the whole Bible, the church, the body of Christ, must build itself up in Christ in this age. This is the most important revelation and the greatest prophecy. This is God's heart desire. In the Old Testament age, God gained David; today in the New Testament age, God is gaining many who care for the building of the church with Himself as the constituent of the building.