SCRIPTURE: Haggai 1:1-15 (Page 1120); 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10 (Page 1375)

SERMON: It's Time! 14 September 1997

INTRODUCTION

- ✓ A. THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF CHURCH BUILDINGS(!)
- B. PRIORITIES... & COMPLETENESS (Mt.23:23=Lk.11:42; Prov.24:27; 1Tm.6:8; see Mt.22:37,39)
- C. THESIS: A PASTOR... & A PLACE
- D. OUTLINE: WORSHIP & SERVICE (Mt.22:37,39)

I. THE PRIORITY OF A PASTOR

- A. PASTOR: EQUIPPING (FOOD) PRIOR TO WORK (Eph.4:11,12/1Tm.5:17; Ezek.34:2; 1Pt.2:2; Heb.5:12)
- ✓ **B. WORSHIP: KNOWING GOD** (Ps.100:3; Jn.4:22; see Is.19:21; also Heb.11:6; 2Kngs.17:26; 2Chr.14:3)
- C. EVANGELISM: TRUSTING GOD (1Tm.4:16: see Rom.10:17; 2Tim.3:14,15: 1Pt.3:15)
- ✓ D. EDIFICATION: SERVING NEIGHBOR (Eph.4:11,12; 2Tim.3:16,17; Ps.119(teach to walk); eg. Eph.5:22-6:4)
- ✓ E. NEVER SETTLE FOR LESS! (Ezra 7:10; 1Tm.4:12-16; 2Tm.2:15; Acts 6:4/1Tm.5:21!)

/II. ... & THE IMPORTANCE OF A PLACE - Dir. Worship F-2

- **A.** AN UNSPIRITUAL CONCERN (Jn.4:20,21; Heb.12:18f.22f with Rom.12:1; Cor.4:16-5:10; 1Cor.15:50f)
- ✓ B. CREATION: SPACE (Gen.1,2)
 - 1. separated (Gen. 1:4,6,14,18)
 - 2. gathered (Gen.1:9,10)
 - 3. placed (Gen.1:17; 2:15)
 - 4. spirit & **body** = living soul (Gen.2:7; see 1Th.5:23)
 - 5. sacraments: inward & outward (Acts 8:36; 1Cor.11:17f)
 - 6. "cybergnosticism": contempt for actual space (see 1Tm.4:1-5; Col.2:9,23; see Docetism, 2Jn.7)
 - ✓a. the "virtual" church?! (see 1Tm.4:1-5; Col.2:9,23/ see 1Thes.2:17; 3:10; 1Tm.3:14; 1Cor.11:34)
 - "b. omni-potent/scient/present presumption? (Gen.3:1,4,5; cyber-= κυβερ-= control; eg. administrator, 1Cor.12:28; helmsman; see Acts 27:11)

C. PROVIDENCE: PLACE (ie, designated space; 1Tm.6:8)

- 1. put in/out of the garden (Gen.2:15; 3:24)
- 2. Abraham: a land (Gen.12:1; the land, Judg.2:1; Ezek.37:12/ see Heb.11:9)
- 3. body<=>tent, house (2Cor.4:16-5:10; 1Tm.6:8; see Jer.10:20)
- ✓ 4. the resurrection of the body (1Cor.15:35f; 2Cor.5:1.4,17; Jn.5:29; Mt.25:46)

D. REDEMPTION: WORSHIP

- 1. present your bodies a living sacrifice (Rom.12:1,2; 6:13; 2Cor.5:10; see Mt.22:37)
- 2. footstool: in heaven & on earth (Heb. 12:22; see Is. 66:1=Acts 7:49)
- ✓3. Old Covenant: <u>the place</u> for worship (altar on specified mountain, tabernacle in Shiloh, temple in Jerusalem; (Gen.22:2; Ex.3:1,12; Josh.18:1; Jer.7; see Dt.12:5,11; Ps.78:68)
- 4. New Covenant: no particular place (Jn.4:20,21; Heb.12:18f,22f)
- ✓ 5. New Covenant: still <u>a place</u> for worship
 - √a. synagogues (Acts 13:5; 17:10; 18:8,9/ see Gen.1:9,10 with "synagogue"=συναγωγη; lead with, gather)
 - √b. house to house (Acts 2:46; 5:42; 18:8,9; 20:20; Phlm.1:2)
 - √c. school (Acts 18:8.9)
 - d. the church in... (Rev.2:1f; Phil.1:2; see Gen.1:9.10 with "church"=εκκλησια, call out; gather)
 - Let the Body of Christ (1Cor. 12:1f; Eph. 1:22,23; 5:23; 1Cor. 12/ the visible church; gathered in a place)

E. REDEMPTION: SERVICE (love man as self; Mt.22:39) **√**1. go into all the world (Mt.28:18-20; Acts 1:8) 2. salt and light (Mt.5:13-16) /3. a city set on a hill (Jerusalem; Mt.5:14) 14. in the midst of the nations (Ezek.5:5; 16:14) 1/5. yet: retreat, refuge (Mk.6:31) 16. place/s suitable to the work: town & country? VIII. A PLACE SUITABLE TO THE WORK (see Prov.25:11) A. BIRDS, AIR: BEASTS, FIELD; FISH, SEA (Gen. 1:20f, 26; Ps. 104:17f) B. MAN: GARDEN (Gen. 1:28; 2:15; control; sights, sounds, smells) . C. TABERNACLE, TEMPLE: SACRIFICE (Heb.9) D. CHURCH BUILDING: MEANS OF GRACE (ie, ordinances of worship) A reading, preaching, praying, singing: good acoustics 2. presider, prayer, preacher, precentor; sacraments: good lighting 3. attentiveness: general physical circumstances (discomfort/overcomfort; eg. seating, temperature

E. CHURCH BUILDING: MEANS OF SERVICE

control, air quality; see Acts 20:9)

- √ 1. hospitality: kitchen, hall (Mk.8:3; 1Tm.5:10; Heb.13:2 (Gen.18); see Acts 2:46)
- 2. pressing needs: rooms (eg. Temple: 1Kngs.7:51/ see Acts 6:1; Jms.2:15f; eg., food, clothing, shelter)

F. NOTE ON ARCHITECTURE AND MEANING

- 1. word and sign (see Ex.4:28; Heb.2:1-4; esp. Jn.6:35,1-14; 9:5,7)
- 2. vaulted height: heaven (Heb.12:22)
- √3. simplicity: focus on the beauty of the Lord in His ordinances (Reformation, New England)
- Cotho ic 4. central table with pulpit to side/both together (word & sign; eg. Ex.4:28; Jn.9:5,7)
 - 5. glass, clear: openness, invitation; light! (eg. Ottawa RPC; "keep the light on", Syracuse RPC)
 - 6. Greek revival architecture (Parthenon; eg. Oswego RPC!; 2Cor.6:14-18)
 - entrance through walls of water with superfine mist! (see 1Cor.10:1,2)
 - G. REMINDER: MEANS VS. END (Heb. 12:18f; Jn. 4:23,24)

IV. IT'S TIME!

- ✓ A. IT'S TIME TO <u>PRAY!</u> LET THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES WHICH JUSTIFY THIS DESIRE GIVE YOU COURAGE TO PRAY EARNESTLESS FOR A MORE SUITABLE PLACE! (1Tm.6:8 and all above; see 2Sam.7:27; Jms.4:2,3; 1Jn.5:14,15)
- √B. IT'S TIME TO ACT! DO WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROVIDE A MORE SUITABLE PLACE! (Haggai 1:4,8; 2Sam.7:2,5,13/ Ex.31:1; 1Kngs.7/ Ex.25:1-91; 1Kngs.7:51)
- ✓ C. SUMMARY: AVOID INDULGENCE ON THE LEFT AND ASCETICISM ON THE RIGHT, PRAY FOR GOD'S PROVISION AND USE IT IN THANKFUL SERVICE TO GOD AND MAN (1Tm.6:4; 4:4,5)