

framed together growth unto an holy temple in the Lord as part of a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:20-22).

By His death, Christ ended the angry resentment between us, caused by the Jewish laws which favored the Jews and excluded the Gentiles, for He took the two groups that had been opposed to each other and made them parts of Himself (Ephesians 2:18,19).

HABITATION OF GOD (Ephesians 2:19-22)

2:20 FOUNDATION ... APOSTLES. The church can only be a true church if it is founded on the Christ-inspired infallible revelation of the first apostles. (1) The New Testament apostles were the original messengers, witnesses, and authorized representatives of the crucified risen Lord. They were the foundation stones of the church, and their message is preserved in the writings of the N.T. as the original, fundamental testimony to the gospel of Christ, valid for all times. ¹

(2) All believers and churches are dependent on the words, message, and faith of the first apostles as recorded in Acts and in the apostles' inspired writings. Their authority is retained in the N.T., and later generations of the church have the task of obeying the apostolic revelation and of witnessing to it's truth. The gospel given to the N.T. apostles

1. The Full Life Study Bible, p. 1849.

through the Holy Spirit is the enduring source of life, truth, and direction for the church. ¹

(3) All believers and churches are true believers and true churches only so long as they do the following: (a) They must agree with and sincerely endeavor to follow the apostles' original teaching and revelation concerning the gospel as found in the N.T. (Acts 2:42). To reject the apostles' teaching is to reject the Lord Himself (John 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 14:36-38; Gal. 1:9-11). (b) They must continue the apostolic mission and ministry by communicating anew the apostolic message to the world and the church through faithful proclamation and teaching in the power of the Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2 Tim. 1:8-14; Tit. 1:7-9). (c) They must not only believe the apostolic message but also defend and guard it against all distortion or alteration. The apostles' original revelation as found in the N.T. can never be replaced or made void by later revelation, testimony, or prophecy (Acts 20:27-31; 1 Tim. 6:20). ²

We can receive revelation, though, about what has already been written.

An holy temple in the Lord. Ephesians 2:21. The Church is *an holy temple* under construction and *an habitation of God in the Spirit*.

1. The Full Life Study Bible, p. 1849.

2. The Full Life Study Bible, p. 1849,1850.