

Sermon Series: Living with Hope in a Broken World

To be used with: The Testimony of Our Hope

Sermon Title: Standing on Hope

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:4-15

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study “*The Testimony of Our Hope*,” this sermon seeks to remind believers of the bonds that hope creates for us. These bonds provide us with security and stability in the midst of the uncertainties of life.

Introduction: Consider the variety of buildings you have seen. The diversity of architectural styles can almost take your breath away at times. Cathedrals, skyscrapers, and mansions delight us as we look at them. Perhaps the apostle Peter envisions the grandeur of the temple in Jerusalem as he writes his letter to believers. For centuries the temple had been the center of Jewish religious practices.

The Jewish temple is not the culmination of God’s building program, however. Rather, God is building a temple that is not limited to one location. This new spiritual house exists across time, cultures, and geographical locations. Being part of this building has enormous implications for our place in the world.

1. We stand on Christ as our foundation. (v. 4-6)

A good foundation is key to having a strong building. If you have visited a construction site in the initial stages of a building project, you have likely seen a wide space cleared and even perhaps seen a deep hole being dug. The builders were preparing the foundation. The building that was to come would only be as strong as the foundation supporting it.

We as believers are part of the spiritual house that God is building. Though we may not appear to be much to others, God has chosen us to be part of His building. We have new life, as well as a new purpose and function because of our connection to Christ. He is the solid rock on which we stand.

2. We stand in unity with fellow believers. (v. 7-10)

After a building’s foundation is in place, the rest of the building can begin to take shape. Brick and mortar, wood and stone, steel and glass are all put into place in connection to one another. The pieces come together making a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

It is an honor for us to be part of God’s spiritual house, even though this honor is offensive to those who do not believe. Believers, however, have a new common identity, position, and status. Now we are able to praise God for causing all of this to happen because of His grace. We proclaim the glory of God together in gratitude for His mercy.

3. We stand as an example to the world. (v. 11-15)

Buildings, whether grand or small, point to something beyond themselves. Homes signify families, churches signify worshiping communities, and skyscrapers signify business enterprises. Part of a building's purpose is to let people know that something important is going on inside of it.

As part of God's spiritual house, we are witnesses of God's power to the world. People outside of the body of Christ should be able to look at us and recognize that we are different. We should submit ourselves to God's commands rather than fleshly, sinful desires. Also, we should submit ourselves to the authority of government as it acts rightly. Behaving in this way prevents nonbelievers from having just cause to criticize us.

Conclusion: Those of us who have believed in Jesus are now part of God's spiritual house. We stand as a testament to His glory and honor. Through our devotion to Him, we provide a witness to others of the power of God. Even though nonbelievers may reject us, we can be confident that God accepts and approves of us.

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