



Jeff Sweeten

Thus Saith the Lord **WHO BUILT YOUR CHURCH**

By Jeff Sweeten

It wasn't too long ago that I overheard a conversation wherein two friends were discussing the merits of their house builders. As it turns out, one can readily identify individual houses in a housing development by the contractor. They are similar in many ways – after all, it's a house – but unique in ways obvious enough to distinguish who built it. What was embarrassingly clear in the conversation was that one contractor built a house that was far superior to his competitors.

For obvious reasons, he was very popular and most folks who bought a home in this particular housing development preferred his houses. Workmanship and sacrifice marked the quality of the one contractor while the other contractors produced flawed and flimsy products that the conversationalists compared to a pretty façade on a rinkydink shack.

When referencing the Lord's House, one must understand that the "church" is the people, not the pile of bricks or lumber in which the actual church meets (Acts 2:46). Too many confuse the edifice with the elect and mistakenly give sacred value to a physical building, which God never intended. The Lord's church is the Lord's people.

That being understood, it was Jesus Who said: "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). It was never in Jesus' plan to build some building, like the Old Covenant Temple, but to build a special people (1 Peter 2:5). That was a product of His visit to this blue marble: to establish His church.

The inspired Apostle Paul said it another way: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). In fact, when it comes to the spiritual House of God, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it..." (Psalm 127:1).

What is painfully obvious, however, is that the quality of any spiritual structure (a church) is based solely in the integrity of the builder and human beings cannot measure up. One would think that the integrity of a Christ-built house would discourage human beings from building their own rinkydink "spiritual" houses wearing religious names found nowhere in the Bible, with doctrines that certainly don't originate in the Sword of the Spirit and worshiping in ways that have absolutely no authority from God's Word. It appears that many are not wise builders (cf. Matthew 7:24-27) and the difference between the two builders in this context is the difference between being a disciple and being condemned.

If the church to which you belong didn't originate in the New Testament (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2), if your worship isn't a carbon copy of early Christians' worship (Matthew 15:9; John 4:24), or your doctrines and teachings lack a book-chapter-verse (2 Timothy 3:16-17), your spiritual house cannot possibly be the church that Christ built. So, who built your church?

You will find that the church of Christ located at 1300 E Boynton Street, here in Hamilton, to be a group of "fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone... for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:19b-22).

Thus Saith the Lord
is presented by the

Park Heights Church of Christ

1300 E. Boynton St.
Hamilton
254-386-3953

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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