



Message-based Study

Date: February 18, 2024

Teacher: Rev. Dr. William (Billy) Burch

Message: *Life Lessons from the Wisdom and Folly of Solomon*

Video is available online at: visitccc.com

Connection

Would you rather work with a team, or by yourself?

Content

King David wanted to serve God by building the temple in Jerusalem, but that wasn't God's plan, and he told David, "No." God wanted David's son Solomon to build the temple. David obeyed God and still had a role to play. He organized workers and materials for the temple. The temple was important, but the most important thing was that God was teaching David, and us, how to live and how to love and obey Him.

1. When have you felt you were getting ready for one important thing only to find God pointing you in another direction? What lessons did that teach you?

God's pattern

For a sports team, a fire brigade, an army, a big company or our church, each member has a role to play. God's pattern is for "unity and synergy." He combines energies and efforts to build something bigger than all of the individual parts put together.

Read 1 Kings 5:1-14. King Solomon went on to assemble a huge force of laborers and skilled workers to build the temple. Each may have thought they played a small part, but without them all, the temple was not going to get built. This is how God has set things up. For his church, God prepares each of us for the contribution He wants us to make in a huge project.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-24. Paul says that together we form "one body" in Jesus with no part less important than any other. Each has a unique role, and all are needed.

2. What skills or roles have you seen God making you ready for?

3. What counsel will you give a friend who lets you know they do not feel they have anything to offer as part of the church?

God's provision

Read 1 Kings 8: 27-36 and 41-43. The temple built by Solomon was different from any other. It contained no idols. Unlike the people all around them, God's people Israel worshiped the Creator, not a created thing. The temple was a testament to the presence of God, who wanted to inhabit Israel, to be there so His people would seek His presence, call on Him for help in their need and for forgiveness when they sinned. And the temple was there so that outsiders also would come to God.

4. How should our body of people who believe in Jesus – the church – be like a temple?
5. What can we do better to help each other and outsiders to seek the presence of God?

God went further when Jesus became “fully God and fully man” to show people what He looks like in the flesh. And he went further still by being present with us through the Holy Spirit.

6. Without a stone temple, how does God's presence become “concrete” for us today?

God's purpose

Paul announces the true and living God to the Gentiles in Acts 17. And in 1 Peter 2:4-5, we read that we believers are living stones being built by Jesus into a “spiritual house.” Or, as Ephesians 2:20-22 says, we become a temple, “a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit” with Jesus as the cornerstone. Every one of those stones has a role and is vital.

7. What's important to remember when you find you are comparing your role in God's temple with the roles of others?

Commitment

God made you for a purpose in His mission to point people to Jesus. Have you asked Him to show you the role He has made you for?

This week work on putting to memory 1 Peter 2:4-5.

“As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”