

2 Corinthians #16 (6:16 – 7:1)

I. The First Promise – Verse 16

- A. God in scripture often gives promise then command –(Gen. 17:1, 7-9)
- B. “As God has said” – formula showing Paul quoting from Old Testament
 - 1. Three verses – Exodus 29:45; Leviticus 26:12; Ezekiel 37:27
- C. “Ye are the temple” – Paul compares OT reference to temple to church
 - 1. This is how we should understand prophecy – 2 Thess. 2:4
- D. God promises to dwell among His people –OT by Shekinah – 2 Chr. 7:1
 - 1. Then He dwells among people through Christ (Jn 1:14; Matt. 1:23)
 - 2. When Christ ascended happens by Spirit (John 16:7; John 14:16, 17)
- E. Uses preposition “in” twice – Wherever God dwells is a temple
 - 1. God’s dwelling here not just His omnipresence – He is everywhere
 - 2. Refers to God’s dwelling in His gracious presence through Spirit
- F. “I will be their God” – in a unique way – He is God of all- I Cor. 8:5, 6
 - 1. He is everyone’s God as God of nature and God of providence
 - 2. But to us He is our covenant God
- G. “They shall be My people” – I Peter 2:9 as opposed to Malachi 2:10

II. The First Exhortation – Verse 17 (Quoted from Isaiah 52:11)

- A. Refers to Babylon - Referred to in Rev. 18:4 – Babylon is type of world
 - 1. True religion is keeping oneself separate from world – James 1:27
- B. Since Holy Spirit is One dwelling in us we should be holy (I Pet. 1:15,16)
- C. “Touch not the Unclean thing” – This is especial reference to idolatry
 - 1. This is looked at as great evil in Bible–2nd commandment – Ex. 20:4, 5
 - 2. OT has many commands about not touching unclean things
 - a. Dead bodies (Lev. 5:2; Numbers 19:11) foods, other things
 - b. Ceremonial laws not fulfilled in Christ – have spiritual meaning

III. The Second Promise – Verses 17 and 18

- A. Again Paul is quoting from Old Testament – probably 3 references
 - 1. 2 Samuel 7:14; Jeremiah 31:9; Ezekiel 20:34
- B. “I will receive you”- Scripture speaks of us receiving Christ – John 1:12
 - a. This is the opposite side- God receives us as His children
- C. “I will be to you a Father” – Our God and our Father – John 20:17
 - 1. We come to Him as Father – (Matt. 6:9) Protector, Provider, Guide
 - 2. Greatest humiliation in world was Christ becoming man (Phil. 2:5-8)
 - a. Greatest human exaltation is us becoming God’s children –I Jn. 3:1
- D. Our Father is the “Lord Almighty” – Almighty in Greek- All power or rule

IV. The Second Exhortation – 7:1 (Based on Second Promise)

- A. Having these promises (The ones that are in this passage)
- B. Paul in this exhortation divides sin into sins of flesh and sins of spirit
 - 1. Sin begins in the heart – Matthew 5:27, 28 (pride, malice, lust etc.)
 - 2. But it is important what we do with bodies (I Cor. 6:18 – 20)
 - a. Lying, idolatry, fornication, murder, drunkenness, stealing
- C. “Let us cleanse ourselves” – Doesn’t mean we can cleanse ourselves
- D. Paul says “Bringing holiness to completion” or “perfecting holiness”
 - 1. Shows that sanctification is an ongoing work – not completed
- E. We do this in the fear of the Lord – I Peter 1:16, 17; Gen. 39:9