

See! The Home of God Is with Men

Let us commit this time to the Lord:

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank You for a wonderful time that we have had at Your table. It is Your presence with us, we have that communion, we have that fellowship with our Lord Jesus, and through Him with our Heavenly Father. Lord, as we come to this time of the word ministry, it is really You who is speaking to us, through this unworthy vessel. Lord, we do want to pray that You would open Your heart to us, that the burden that You have put in my heart can be released, that it can be spoken clearly and can be understood. So, we do want to bring this hour to You, Lord, and ask You to bless us with Your presence. Lord, open our eyes, help us to see Your glory. Give us that open heaven; we want to see Jesus. Thank You, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

I do not remember when I spoke the last time; it may have been a while. I am really encouraged in what Jerry said, "Well, we do need eternity to come to know the Lord." It is amazing, but the Lord Jesus through the revelation of John at the end of the book of Revelation, has given us a peek of the eternity. I do not know how you all feel, but I am catching up with Jerry; somehow, I want to know of eternity. It is not a matter of curiosity, but truly what is in God's heart for us all in eternity? God is an eternal God; He is the same, He never changes. But we are created for eternity, on one hand, but we do thank the Lord that He leaves us on earth in time, and God created time really to perfect us, to prepare us so that we are fitted to live in eternity.

Prior to eternity we know that the Lord must return first; we sang that song, Maranatha, and at the end of Revelation the Lord said, "I am coming quickly," and let us keep that in our heart; He is coming quickly. After that, there is the 1,000-year kingdom where the Lord Jesus and His people rule over this world. After that, it is eternity.

I want to share a little bit in small portions, really one verse, maybe half the verse, that was given to John the apostle in Revelation 21.

Revelation 21:3 (NASB): "And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,"

We know the word "tabernacle" in modern time might have a different meaning than how it was used in the old fashion English. When we talk about the tabernacle, we think about a tent, a temporary structure that can be put up, taken down, and can be moved easily and quickly; that is today's definition. But if you look at the old fashion way, tabernacle really means a dwelling place, habitation, a place in which to live, a house, and a home, *and a home*. We have the term "tabernacle" in the Old Testament, which really means home. Think about it as we read Revelation 21:3 again: "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and God will dwell among men."

This word "dwell" is a verb, and tabernacle is a noun, and they are from the same root in Greek. Dwell means "abide," and "to be at home." When you go to the Bible translations, and we

place those words with the old meaning of the word “dwell,” then I am impressed. I hope we all are impressed with what the Word of God says.

There are at least two Bible translations that translate tabernacle as home.

Revelation 21:3 (Phillips New Testament Translation): “Then I heard a great voice from the throne crying, “See! The home of God is with men, and he will live among them. They shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them,”

We have a taste of this at least in our everyday life because we know what a home is. But what does it mean to live among them? So, it is really this matter of the home of God. We will concentrate on these two phrases: the home of God is with men, and God will live among men.

We really should read these very carefully because sometimes we often have this thought: can we build a home for God? Can we offer God a home? That is not the case here. Well, we know that God does not live in things that are built by human hands.

So, what is the home of God? I do want to say that the home of God is a Person, the Lord Jesus. When we come to the New Testament, that is what the Bible points to, the home of God is the Lord Jesus. So here we have the Word of God stating that the home of God is with men. It means that if we are at home with God’s Son, then we are also at home with God.

The second phrase is: He will dwell among them, God will live among men. It is that living relationship. When you are in life-union with the Lord, His Son, God will live among us. I sense that is the meaning of the verse. So what God is after in the time that we are here on earth is that we would have a living, loving, intimate relationship with His Son.

We might know all of this; so this may not be anything new to us. When you hear the word, “ministry” today, you could say, “I have heard that before.” It might be nothing new. But I just pray to the Lord that He will speak afresh to us.

What is the burden? Why do I sense that the Lord Jesus wants me to share on this matter of the home of God is with man? I do not know how you think about it, but I just want to ask two questions. We all know about the first coming of the Lord Jesus. Do you think God was at home with His people at the time of the first coming of the Lord Jesus? We know that at that time, God’s people were the Israelites. God had His people, and God had His temple in Jerusalem.

We have this verse in John 1:11: “He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.”

On one hand, God had His people, and He had His temple, but His people were not at home with Him. That is what John 1:11 says. So, what was the condition of God’s people at that time? We must conclude that they were not at home with Jesus; they were not at home with God. Now fast forward, the second question is like the first question: “Oh, you say that was two thousand years ago, and it has to do with the Israelites. What about us?” I hope the Lord asks that question. We must be honest.

We all know those seven letters in Revelation 2-3, and you know the last letter is to the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:20.

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”

The Lord spoke these words. Where was the Lord Jesus? He had His people; He had His believers; He had the churches, but where was the Lord Jesus? The Lord Jesus was outside knocking at the door. Two thousand years have passed; are we not in the same way today? Where is the Lord Jesus? Have we put Him outside the door? You know, that could be the condition today. Now if we as believers are not at home with the Lord Jesus or the Lord Jesus is not at home with us, then God is not at home with us either. That is really the burden for today. Consider this matter of the home of God, and the question comes down to, where are we? You know that the Lord is only satisfied when His home is with His people, when that becomes the reality, then the heart of God is satisfied. So, we are unlike the time when the Lord Jesus came the first time. Today, we have no excuse. The Lord has given us the Holy Spirit, and He shows us our condition—no excuse. I would say, “Let us repent; there is a giant gap between our condition and what God is after.” We need to be clear. What does it mean by, “the home of God is with men?”

Outline

We can look at the heart of God from Genesis all the way to the end of Revelation, and you can see that His heart never changes. God wants His home to be with men. I also want to point out one thing. We need to realize there is the Old Testament or the Old Covenant and the New Testament or the New Covenant. In the book of Hebrews, it mentions what was in the Old Testament. They are shadows, so we must take what is recorded in the Old Testament as shadows. It reflects the reality that comes in in the New Testament, and we must bear that in our mind when we look at stories in the Old Testament. And we come to realize how much better we are today as we think about the time when God took the Israelites out from Egypt, and they became God’s people. How much more blessed we are today since the Holy Spirit has come into our heart. So that is the first section of today’s word ministry.

Then we want to fellowship a little from John 15:1: “I am the true vine, ...” The vine and the branches are in a relationship, and this is a matter of abiding: “Abide in Me, and I in you.” That is a relationship with the Lord Himself. Now here is the word “abide.” Abide means, “to dwell,” and “make home.” So, you can see the connection there, and it is really this matter of abiding. The vine and the branch are one in life, and that brings us into at home with the Lord Himself. So that would be the second section of today’s word ministry.

Number three is looking at an example to help us understand the Word of God. There is an illustration from the Bible in Jesus’ time that shows us that Jesus was at home. Remember when Jesus came, His people did not receive Him, but there was one family who received Him. I am sure you know who that family was. It was a family in Bethany, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. We will look at how Jesus was at home with them. Of course, the other side is that they were at home with Jesus.

God's Desire to Be at Home with Men

Adam and Eve

The first thing we find is God's desire to be at home with men. In the creation in Genesis 2, when man was created, God put man in the Garden of Eden. In that Garden they had all kinds of trees, so the physical needs were met as far as Adam was concerned. We know that in Genesis 3:8, God came in the cool of the day and talked to Adam. He took the animals to Adam, and he named them all one by one. And God sensed that something was unsettled in Adam's heart because he saw the animals had come in pairs, but Adam himself did not have a helpmate.

So, God took out something from Adam and made a helpmate for him, and that was Eve. In the Garden of Eden, they had trees, and In the middle of the Garden was the tree of life. God was hinting to Adam, saying, "Eat the fruits of the tree of life; it is right there in the middle of the Garden." Of course, you might say it is a tree, but it is like God was saying to Adam and Eve: "Not only do I want to fellowship with you in physical terms, in the natural way, but eat the fruits of that tree, and you will have that life. Then we can have a life-union together, and we can live in that higher life of relationship between God and man." So, we see at the beginning in creating Adam and making Eve, this matter of God's home among men is already there. We see the hints.

Construct a Sanctuary for Me, that I May Dwell Among Them

We know the story of the Israelites. The descendants of Abraham went to Egypt because there was famine in the land, and they multiplied. It is amazing! But then God said, "I want to take them out of Egypt." God not only said to take them out of Egypt, but He said, "They are My people." Can you imagine that! "My people!" God's people! They are not just any people in this world. God took the Israelites from Egypt; they were His people.

In Exodus 25, Moses went up to the mountain, and God gave him the instructions to build a tabernacle for Him; He gave Moses every detail of instructions. Every curtain, every furniture, everything in the tabernacle, God gave precise instructions to Moses. What is the reason for that? Because the tabernacle itself is a shadow of God's home among the Israelites. So, the word to Moses is in Exodus 25:8: "Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them."

At that time the Israelites, descendants of Abraham, were in Egypt, but God expressed His heart to them. He chose a people, He took them out from Egypt, and He told them, "Build Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." Or "I may live among them." Again, right there is the heart of God; He wanted to dwell among His people. Now we must remember that this is shadow. This is not the final story; this is shadow.

It is wonderful, after the tabernacle was constructed, in Exodus 40:34, it says, "The glory of God filled the tabernacle." Even though it was a man-made structure, the glory of God filled it. A brother shared with us that the meaning of the glory of God is when God gets what He wants, then He shows His glory. Even the tabernacle itself, even though it is a shadow, God showed forth His glory. God's heart was satisfied.

The Home of God Is Christ

When you come to the New Testament, I mentioned shadows and reality. That is the transition between the old and the new. We have these words from John 2:19: "Jesus answered them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." So, what is the temple of God? It is not in that building in Jerusalem. That is the transition right there. The temple of God is in Christ Himself.

So where does God dwell? Where is the home of God? We must ask. The home of God is in Christ; it is a Person. It is not a physical building. I hope we realize that. It is not something physical; it is not something natural; it is something spiritual; it is the Lord Himself, the Person.

The story did not end there. I want to go back a little on this matter of "My people." It is so significant. I thought about the opening today. If we do a search in the Bible and say, "Search for My people in the Old Testament," you will find 173 occurrences, and they all refer to the Israelites. Now we understand how important the Israelites are to the heart of God.

Believers Are the People of God in Christ Jesus

So, in the New Testament, "My people" is expanded. It is wonderful. You ask a question, "Are we all Gentiles?" I am not sure know if we have any that are Israelites. Most of us are Gentiles, but as believers God calls us His people. Isn't that wonderful? Because from Peter's ministry in I Peter 2:10 he said of the believers, "for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY."

What a wonderful blessing that is! Believers are included in, "We are God's people." So, we are in the New Testament now; we are God's people. Let us settle that in our hearts. God loves us as much as He loved the Israelites. But there is more than that. In the Old Testament, the Israelites were God's people in the natural way. However, in the New Testament you find the term that says, "in Christ Jesus," "in Him," and "in the Lord." We are not only His people, but God also put us in Christ Jesus. That is much closer than the relationship between the Israelites and God. We have that spiritual, eternal relationship. Today we are God's people; we are in Christ Jesus. He put us in Christ Jesus, that close relationship. If we do a word search on "in Christ Jesus," or "in Him," it is more than a hundred times in the New Testament. So that is where we are, that is where our position is, in Christ Jesus.

We Are the Temple of the Living God

So, we talked about people, we talked about in Christ Jesus, which is a new position from the Old Testament. How about this matter of temple or sanctuary? In the Old Testament, the sanctuary, the temple, the tabernacle were physical things. They were buildings on earth. But in the New Testament transition, there is a change.

We find that in II Corinthians 6:16b: "... For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

Now that is talking about us. We are the temple of the living God, which is in present tense. It is not, "We will be." It is now, we are the temple of the living God. God, in Christ, dwells in us; that is the way to look at it. So, if we are at home with Christ, we shall be at home with God Himself.

II Corinthians 6:16b: "... "I WILL DWELL (LIVE, ABIDE) IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

As we think about this, who are we? We are sinners saved by His grace, but God in Christ desired to be at home with us. What love that is! He loves us. What love that is toward the believers. "I will walk among them." That brings us back to the story of Genesis. God walked in the cool of the afternoon. God walked in the midst of the garden of Eden, the Paradise, as we call it. Of course, we are better than Adam and Eve at that time, because they had not eaten the fruit of the tree of life, and we have Christ's life in us. So, God is walking among us; we have that life-union with the Lord Himself. He can live in us, and He walks among us. Then He said, "I will be their God."

In the Old Testament, only God said of the Israelites, "God is the God of the Israelites, His people." But now that is extended to us; God is our God. God has become the God of all those who believe in Christ Jesus. And then it ends with, "They shall be My people." God's people. What mercy and grace that is! In the Old Testament, to be God's people was out-of-reach unless you were Israelites. His people are the Israelites, but now that is also extended to us; we are God's people.

Essences of a People at Home with God

A People in Life-Union with God's Son

In this section we are considering about God being at home and God living among His people, especially in the New Testament. In our days, how blessed we are to have our Lord Himself that we can abide in Him, and He can abide in us. We can have that life-union with Him, and we are His people and God is our God. In the Old Testament when He commanded Moses to construct a sanctuary, so that God may dwell among them, that is being realized today among His believers. We dwell in Christ and God in Christ dwells among us, and He lives among us. On one hand you can say that is our position, but God wants us to be in the reality.

I want to spend a little time on this matter of who the people are that would be at home with God. The first one is from John 15:1a, Jesus said, "I am the true vine."

Verse 4a: "Abide in me, and I in you. ..." It really means, make home in the Lord Jesus, and the Lord Jesus also will make home in us.

Verse 5a: "I am the vine, you are the branches; ..."

What is that speaking to us? The vine and branches are together. You cannot separate them; they are one. They have one life. It speaks of the life-union between the Lord Jesus and us. We can only make home in God when we are at home with our Lord Himself. So, what would we say? We want to be home with God, and it refers to a people, the believers, that are in life-union with

God's Son, no more and no less. It becomes much clearer when we look at Revelation 21:22: "I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple."

What is in eternity? Well, what did John see? John was an Israelite. He knew about the temple. Would that be a surprise to him when God gave him that vision of eternity? John naturally asked, "Where is the temple? There is no temple there." John saw no temple, for the Lord God, the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. So, at the beginning of eternity, what do we see there? There is no physical temple, but we see God the Almighty. We see the Lamb, and we see God's people (the bride and the wife of the Lamb), all together, at home, in eternity.

Do you see that picture? God's people are in perfect life-union with His Son, and God's people are perfectly at home with God. That is what John saw, and that should be revealed to our heart because we are talking about eternity. Sometimes we think eternity is so far away. Fear not, eternity is right around the corner. It is particularly important to know because when God shows us eternity, what is that going to do in our hearts? We then have a goal with a purpose; we have something to press forward to, to satisfy God's heart.

I also want to mention that even though it is in eternity, it also should be now, which is the reality. God wants us to be at home with Him, with the Lamb, and God's people together, the perfect life-union in His Son.

A People in God's Presence

What do people, who are in life-union with God's Son, have? If we go back to the Old Testament, we know that in the construction of the tabernacle, there was the holy place, and the Holy of Holies, and there was a curtain to divide the two. We know in the Holy of Holies, there was the ark of covenant and the mercy seat, and there were two Cherubims. I only know from the Bible that Moses had exceptional access because the Bible said that God talked to Moses above the mercy seat. So, remember that there was no natural light in the tabernacle. All it had was the glory of God and His presence. But that access into the Holy of Holies in the Old Testament time was limited. Once a year, on the day of atonement, the high priest would go up and enter into it. It was not available to all His people in the Old Testament, but that changed in our time. When we have the life-union with the Lord Himself, we know what happened when the Lord gave up His Spirit to God at the cross. The veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. In the book of Hebrews it says, "That is the open way." The Lord Jesus gave us the open way into the Holy of Holies, into the presence of God, onto that mercy seat with the blood of Jesus.

In the Old Testament, it was once a year for the high priest. Now in our time, when we live the life-union with the Lord Himself, we have unlimited access to the Father's presence any time in the Spirit. So, that is wonderful for us in the New Testament as believers to have access to God and to His presence.

A People Filled with God's Glory

Another difference is in this matter of the glory of God. Again, if you go back to the Old Testament, the glory of God filled the temple, it filled the tabernacle, but in the New Testament, it is different. It is no longer something physical, but it is something spiritual, and it is something

that stands for the fulness of the glory of God. It stands for God's heart being satisfied, and everything is according to the mind of God, then there is the glory of God. So, in the Old Testament it was limited; in the New Testament, we know that His Son, our Lord Himself, is the One who satisfies God's heart. He is the One with the glory of God. Because we are in life-union with the Lord Himself, we also come into that glory of God. We also have a way to satisfy God's heart.

A people who are in life-union with the Lord Himself, there is glory because the glory is not their glory; it is the glory of the Lord Himself. So, it gives us that essence of the people of God who are at home with Christ or who are at home with God.

Let me sum it up. Life-union with the Lord Himself, unlimited access to God's presence, and the ability to satisfy God's heart in Christ Jesus. What mercy God has for us when we think about, who are we. We are believers, sinners saved by His grace, and He truly allows us to enter into that life-union with the Lord Himself, and that is the heart of God.

The Family of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus of Bethany

Let us go to an example. We will look at the story of the family of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. When Jesus came the first time, He came to His people, and His people did not welcome Him. Even though He is Emanuel, God with men, He was born in a manger, a lowly place. And the Bible said, "there was no room for them in the inn" I am not sure what you think when you hear the words, "No room in the inn for Emanuel, God with us." Then we also read in the gospel what the temple had become. The Lord Himself cleansed the temple twice because the people turned the temple into a place of business. So, He overturned the money changers and the tables that sold doves, even though that was for people's convenience, but that was not for the house of God.

Remember, He is the Son of God, but the temple is no longer the house of God. The Lord Himself had no place to stay. One more thing about that was in the last week, the passion week, the week of suffering, the gospel of Luke tells us that the Lord Jesus did not stay in Jerusalem. He was there in the daytime, but He left. He had to go someplace else because that city did not welcome Him. He had no place there.

So, the background of this family in Bethany is covered in the gospel of Luke 10:38-42. I will give you the reference first. In John's Gospel we have John 11:1-44, He raised Lazarus from his death, and then we have John 12 where we find Mary.

Jesus Was Welcomed There

God's people did not welcome the Lord Himself in His first coming, but He found a family in Bethany who welcomed Him. That family more than welcomed Him.

In Luke 10:38 it says, "Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home."

Remember the background that God's people rejected Him, but now the Lord found a place that welcomed Him, and that was the family in Bethany. They welcomed Him as a member of the family. The Lord Himself was at home there, and they were at home with the Lord Himself.

There Was Heart-to-Heart Fellowship

Further along in that chapter there is a word that says, “She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.”

It is a picture right there: Martha was very busy, but Mary sat there. That was a heart response to the Lord Himself. The Lord had a heart-to-heart fellowship with Mary, and He even praised her: “but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” That one thing was heart-to-heart fellowship with the Lord. So, in this family the Lord found a home with heart-to-heart fellowship.

There Was Correction

Not only that, in a family there is always corrections. Even in this instance recorded in Luke 10, Martha complained. She said, “Lord, tell Mary to help me out; I am so busy, I am in so much trouble.” Martha was rebuked, but there was correction in the house, so those are necessary. When those in the family are together, there will be corrections. But the next time the Bible talks about this family, it only says, “Martha served,” and nothing else because Martha was no longer complaining. She was corrected.

A Family Whom Jesus Loved

Then in John 11:5 is the chapter about Lazarus being very sick and dying. I hope it touched our hearts. “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” Among all the families at that time, and I do not know how many Israelites there were at the time, but the Lord Himself singled out this family of Bethany, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. And the Scripture says, “Now Jesus loved them.” Jesus loves us all; Jesus’ love is beautiful, but the Bible said that the Lord loved them. There was something in Martha, in Mary, and in Lazarus that really satisfied the Lord’s heart. The Lord was so at home in that place, and He loved this household.

Testimony of Living in Resurrected Life

Then you have the story of Lazarus’ death and buried for four days. The Lord Jesus came after Lazarus died. In the same chapter John 11:25, the Lord said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Can you imagine that! The Lord was there, even though Lazarus died, and he was buried, too. But Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” What does that mean to us? In the presence of the Lord Himself, there is resurrection, and there is life. And you see that picture in chapter 12: “Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him.” He was there as a testimony of that life that our Lord Himself is the resurrection.

Wholly Devoted to Jesus

I mentioned that in the week of the passion, those last seven days, the Lord did not stay in Jerusalem. He went there in the day, but He did not stay there at night. So, in John 12, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, and Mary did something special. Remember in previous chapter that says, “She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.” Mary was so devoted to the Lord Himself, she heard every word from the Lord. His disciples were with the Lord all the time, the Lord spoke to them about laying down His

life. They heard it, but they did not hear it. But there is a sister in this family who was so devoted to the Lord Himself, she heard it. And she wanted to do something for the Lord, and something from her heart, the perfume was the most expensive thing, and according to Jewish tradition she saved it for her wedding day, the most expensive perfume she poured it on the feet of Jesus. So now you see that in that family there was devotion. She whole-heartedly devoted to the Lord Himself, and that is Mary, which is why Jesus found His home there, and that is why they were at home with Jesus.

Jesus was Satisfied

Even at the end of that story, the Lord said, "Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her." On this act of pouring out all she had on the Lord Himself for burial, the Lord was satisfied, and He said, "Wherever you share the gospel, remember to tell the story of Mary and how she was devoted to me." So, the heart of the Lord was satisfied.

We have this example of the household at that time, but it is not a perfect illustration because the Spirit had not yet come. But there was this household, which is an example of a home where the Lord was at home, and they were at home with the Lord Jesus. What an example for us!

Conclusion

We shared that the heart of God is at home with His people. And we see that from the beginning to the end, from Genesis to Revelation. God's desire is to be at home with His people, that He might live among them. That is His eternal desire. So, in this home we must forget about what we might think. The home is not a structure; sometimes we think the home is a structure. It is not a building; it is the Lord Himself. It is Jesus Christ. And in the heart of God, He wants us to be abiding in the Lord so that He can abide in us. He wants us as the vine and the branches to be together, life-union together, and that is God's eternal desire. That should be our desire, not only for the eternity to come, but our desire now.

We have already talked about being in the last hour of this age, and the Lord is coming soon. The home of God is in Christ, but He longs for us to be at the same place. He longs for us to be in life-union with Him. We know that we are not there. We also read Revelation 3:20 and the Lord is outside, knocking at the door. He said, "'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.'" It is more than eating a meal together. It is more than just the lunch we will have later. He will come in, and we will dine together with Him. The Lord's table that we have is a glimpse of this matter of dining together. Dining together is a life-union with the Lord. It is just wonderful. Maybe He needs to withdraw His presence for a time. His love is eternal; He loves us with an everlasting love. His love never changes, so He might have to withdraw His presence for a while. Nevertheless, He is still knocking. Thank God for that. If He were not knocking, I think we would be lost, but He is knocking. In all seven epistles in Revelation said, "'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" Do we hear His knocking? Are we going to open the door and let Him in so that He might dine with us?

I want to touch upon one more point. There are seven letters, and the first letter is to Ephesus. Now we know all the good things about the church of Ephesus, yet the Lord said in Revelation 2:4: "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love." We talked about the declension of the church, and how the believers in Ephesus turned to doctrines, and the doctrines replaced spiritual reality. The Lord said that they had left the first love, and that was the beginning of declension. When we come to the last letter, we find that the Lord was outside. So, what is the word for Ephesus? He said, "Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent" We thank the Lord that He gives us the opportunity to repent. It is by hearing the Holy Spirit that we will hear the knocking and we can repent; He will bring us back.

John 15:9-10: ""Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."

And at the end of that section verse 17: ""This I command you, that you love one another."

At the end of the day, it has really come back to this matter of love, loving the Lord, and loving one another. So may we truly have that love for one another. It may come from our Lord Himself in His love. And may the Lord have a people in life-union with Him in life and in love, a people loving one another, a people always in His presence, and a people filled with the glory of God. Lastly, may He have a people who are at home with the Lord Jesus and with God.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord Jesus, we do want to give thanks to You for this hour. I must confess that my words are so limited. Lord, we do want to pray that the Holy Spirit may use it to speak to our hearts in a fresh way. Lord, that we may treasure what You have in Your heart on this matter of the home of God. It is among us that God lives. Lord, help us treasure that. That is not only something for eternity to come, but we do also pray that it will become reality in our time on earth. Lord, open Your word to us. Lord, it is loving one another that is Your commandment. Lord, "abide in Me that I may abide in You," make home in the Lord Yourself, that You make home in us. You are the true vine and the branches, vine, and branches together. Lord, these do not become doctrines, but it becomes life in our hearts. Enable us to return to You and allow You to work in each one of us and work in us together. So that You will have what You are after, that You would have a people that are at home with You, a people that have life-union with You, that God would have a people to be at home in. Lord, what a marvelous thing in eternity! Lord, we pray that eternity is now, that You may dwell among us, and we may dwell in You, and that becomes real. Lord, we do thank You for this hour. We thank You, Lord, that You have not given up on Your people. You are still knocking, and You want us to open the door and let You in so that You may dine with us, and we may have that fellowship, we may have that oneness, that life-union to be restored. Thank You, Lord we pray. Amen.

See! The Home of God Is with Men	1
Introduction	1
Outline	3
God's Desire to Be at Home with Men	4
Adam and Eve	4
Construct a Sanctuary for Me, that I May Dwell Among Them	4
The Home of God Is Christ	5
Believers Are the People of God in Christ Jesus	5
We Are the Temple of the Living God	5
Essences of a People at Home with God	6
A People in Life-Union with God's Son	6
A People in God's Presence	7
A People Filled with God's Glory.....	7
The Family of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus of Bethany	8
Jesus Was Welcomed There	8
There Was Heart-to-Heart Fellowship	9
There Was Correction	9
A Family Whom Jesus Loved	9
Testimony of Living in Resurrected Life	9
Wholly Devoted to Jesus.....	9
Jesus was Satisfied	10
Conclusion.....	10

Speaker	Ng, Tak
Venue	Richmond, Virginia, US
Date	September 22 nd , 2024
Link	https://christiantestimonyministry.com/item/see--the-home-of-god-is-with-men