

REVISITING THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

DISPENSATIONAL RECONSIDERING WHAT CHURCHES DO

*"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"*

~ 1 Corinthians 3:16

1. Visiting the Church

- a. How would you describe what goes on in an average church? What do churches do?
- b. If you visit any given church, you will see common religious elements in most of them.
 - i. Sunday, Lord's supper, baptism, worship, priests, penance, prayers, anointing
- c. Let's revisit church reconsidering what they do with dispensational Bible belief
 - i. The first place we visit is the sanctuary: pews, pulpit, stage, chancel (chancellor)

2. Profaning the Sanctuary

- a. *"Can we reassess whether Sunday coffee-sipping in the sanctuary fits?"* - Heb 12:28
- b. John Piper caused a stir over food in church, but why do churches have a 'sanctuary'?
- c. Sanctuary ~def. A place considered sacred or holy, for worship, or refuge. Exo 15:17
- d. Profane ~def. Not sacred; to violate anything sacred. 1 Tim 6:20, 2 Tim 2:16
- e. God makes a sanctuary and profanes his own sanctuary - Isa 43:28, Eze 24:21
- f. Unbelieving Israel said Paul profaned the holy place - Acts 21:28
- g. *(When destroying sacred cows, be careful to separate the sacred from the cow.)*

3. Biblical Sanctuary

- a. Sanctuary mentioned 142x in the Bible (not once by Paul or about the church)
- b. It was where he dwelled, and they served him: the tabernacle/temple - Exo 25:8
- c. Heaven is also called God's sanctuary - 2 Chr 6:18-21, 40, 7:1; Ps 102:19
- d. The high priest was not to leave the sanctuary when anointed for duty - Lev 21:12
- e. The presence of a blemished priest could profane the sanctuary - Lev 21:23
- f. Reverencing the sanctuary was required by law - Lev 26:2
- g. No church sanctuary matches the descriptions in Exo, Lev, Num or Eze 41:21-26, 44:9
- h. Hebrews has the only NT mention of "sanctuary" - Heb 8:1, 9:1-6, Exo 26:33
- i. The audience of Hebrews did not have a sanctuary or city - Heb 13:11-15

4. The Sanctuary Today

- a. Where is the sanctuary today? It is destroyed, profaned, and gone. John 2:19-22
- b. If Israel rebuilt their temple today, God would not sanctify it - 2 Cor 3:15
- c. Paul called out sanctified places among the ignorant worshippers of God - Acts 17:24
- d. You are the temple of God, the Spirit dwells in you - 1Co 3:16,6:19, 2Ti 2:20, Eph 2:21
- e. You serve God in the Spirit not in a sanctuary- 1 Cor 12:13, Rom 6:3,13,22, 8:9, 12:1
- f. We don't go somewhere to meet Christ, we put on Christ before we go - Rom 13:14
- g. The truth of God should be in people not stained glass/big banners - 1 Tim 3:15
- h. The chancel of partition has been broken down by Christ - Eph 2:14
- i. We sit in heavenly places in Christ, not in a room on padded pews - Eph 2:6
- j. The washing of the church has nothing to do with carpet stains - Eph 5:25-27

5. The Unnecessary Sanctuary

- a. Paul was saved on a road, praised in jail, preached on a boat, without a 'sanctuary'
- b. There is no sanctuary in this dispensation outside of Christ in you (mystery) - Col 1:27
- c. You are complete in Christ where all the fulness of God dwells – Col 2:9-10
- d. Let no man judge you regarding sanctuaries also – Col 2:16-17, 20-23, 3:1-2
- e. The will of God is *your* sanctification, not the sanctification of a holy place – 1Th 4:3
- f. There is no divine mystery to you in any room, there is to you in Christ – 2 Cor 5:17
- g. When people think God is in a physical place, they won't know he dwells in them.
- h. When people think architecture brings them close to God, then Christ died in vain.
- i. When people think a building/room is holy, then they miss what Christ made them.