

Gamma 11

Study 8

Ephesians 2:19 -22

Section A (Exegetical Questions)

- 1. What are the three metaphors Paul uses to describe what we were before salvation to what we are now and what does each metaphor contribute to our understanding of salvation?**
- 2. The vision of the church is a temple built on the foundation of apostles and prophets, what does this mean? Why is the Scriptures the only sure foundation for the church?**
- 3. What does Paul mean by writing that Jesus is the cornerstone of the temple or building?**
- 4. The language of Paul indicates that the temple is a growing one...the word “grow “ is in the present active tense indicating an ongoing activity. How do you think a healthy church should be growing in terms of this metaphor?**

Section B

Reflection Questions

- 1. If you picture yourself as being part of the Holy of Holies a place of absolute holiness and beauty and purity and sacrifice, how does that change the way you live? What are the difficulties we will face when we consider that reality ? Why would we rather not mediate and focus on that reality daily**
- 2. Psalm 51:17 tells us of a different kind of sacrifice we can please God with, what is it and how can we learn to move in a kind of life style that better reflects this?**
- 3. The metaphor of being God’s holy temple is to convey the fact of holiness but holiness has often been mischaracterised as only moral perfection. A candle stick placed in the temple was also regarded as “holy”. What does holy mean then?**
- 4. Why is it that whenever someone misbehaves or sins in church there are usually two kinds of responses. In the first response some people immediately go up to the person and tell him or her off and in the second**

more common response we say nothing or attempt to say something but once met with resistance we back off. What is the usual motive of the first response and in the second response why do we back off especially if it is a close friend?

- 5. In Mal 3:13 God is very passionate about his temple, just like any enthusiastic goldsmith who really wants his gold to shine what does He constantly do? What does God do to us and for us then?**

Section C

Case history

Billy Wong had been attending the 4th Baptist Church of Bangsar for over 5 years but had been doing so intermittently. Most times he catches the service on line. When he does attend the service he usually ducks out just as the last song is being sung. He has resisted joining any life group at all. He does go to their Wed night Bible study just to hear the teaching for an hour and then he makes sure he goes home. When some of the people there ask him to stay he makes the excuse that he lives very far away and cannot join the discussion groups. Billy has always maintained that his faith is a very personal one and its only him and Jesus that really matters. He claims to pray to God daily and even fast occasionally. Jesus meets his needs , Billy is happy and does not need anyone. He has a family but he does not bring his kids to Sunday school as he says they are non believers as is his wife and he should not force them so he prays for them and leaves them alone. Billy is an extremely gifted individual and plays the saxophone, violin and piano with degrees in each one. He has his own ministry to the poor and goes street feeding every week alone.

- 1. If you are speaking to Billy, how do you use Pauls metaphor of being built into a temple to encourage Billy to participate more in church life?**
- 2. Billy says the people in church are too old for him to relate to, they have no common interests with him and he has been hurt by criticism of his musical talent in a previous church and does not want to interact.**
- 3. Take Heb 13:17 , how can you use that to explain to Billy that he really should join the church and be part of the body to be accountable. What do you think Derick should do to experience God more in his life?**