

God's House
Mark 11:15-17
Charlie Brackett

We have been discussing the nature of God's house as it is today. We have seen that it is different from the temple in which Jesus overturned tables of the money changers and drove out merchants who were profiting from worshippers who came. Today, God's house is His church. It is the dwelling place of His Spirit. Not the building made with men's hands, but a spiritual house composed of the souls of those who are saved. That is the true house of God. It is the household, the family of God.

That being so, what of the church building that we assemble in on Sunday mornings, and other times if we are truly committed to the cause of Christ? What should our attitude be toward that edifice made with men's hands?

While it is not the dwelling place of God, it has a spiritual purpose and God does dwell there on occasion. In Matthew 18:19 Jesus said, "...where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I with them." In John 4, when Jesus taught the woman at the well those beautiful lessons on worship, He made it crystal clear that it makes no difference where we worship as long as we worship in spirit and in truth. Isn't it wonderful that we can worship wherever we are, and whenever we gather in the name of Christ, He is there.

Some religious folks have apparently misunderstood the nature of true worship. Many must have a sanctimonious sanctuary in which to worship. They think they need the trappings of men's religious extravagance to worship effectively. But true worship of Jehovah God is simple. It is best done without pomp and extravagance. It is to be the simple, sincere, heart-felt expression of love from the created toward his Maker according to His will given to us in the Bible.

Each time we worship, whether in an imposing edifice designated for worship or God or under a tree somewhere, let's strive to worship sincerely and fervently, in spirit and truth. If we do, God will be with us, and He will be pleased with our offering.