

Sermon Topic: Being Built Up As A Spiritual House by Bishop Chong

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 2: 4-10

Introduction

We are ordinary stones with extraordinary roles. Passages highlighting “stones” in the Bible:

Genesis 28:10-19

After Jacob’s encounter with God, he took the stone he slept on to build an altar to commemorate the meeting place. A church is God’s temple, the gate to heaven, where His children come together to worship Him. When we worship God together, He is with us! AMC should act like the gate of heaven, which leads them into the house of God.

Joshua 24:27

Joshua picked a large stone to commemorate God’s leading them out of Egypt, as a witness and reminder to the next generation to keep God’s commands and promises.

Mathew 3:9

Sometimes in our anger against the church, we harden our hearts and refuse to turn around to forgive and let go. We may even think God was the one who was unreasonable and we leave the church.

Question:

Are we as living stones being built into His spiritual house? What are our roles?

1. House of Prayer For All Nations (Isaiah 56:7)

We were originally sinners and waiting for judgment. But saved by Jesus and adopted by God as his children. We are used by Him, being built up as His spiritual house. (1 Cor 3:16 , Eph 2:22) We are also His house of prayer for all nations, for all people on earth, not just for God’s children. To reach out and bless all the people in our neighbourhood. When God’s people come together, it is not for us to just enjoy God’s grace but to be a blessing to the others amongst us.

2. To Be A Living Testimony For The Lord (1 Peter 9)

The church is the visible sign of Christ on earth; we must make it possible for others to see that Christ is indeed alive. The world can’t see Jesus but they can look at His church and see Jesus in their midst. (John 13:35) – Love one another, by this all men will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another.

3. Centre For The Proclamation Of The Good News (1 Peter 9-10)

The mission is to proclaim the excellency of Christ who called us out of darkness and into the light. The church must also go out to where there are people to proclaim his excellency. Talk about the goodness of Jesus and share our stories to others.

Jesus would never force anyone to believe or follow Him. He allows everyone to make their own choice and decision to accept or reject His finished work on the cross. But if we have taken Him as our Lord, then we are His chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, a people for His own possession.

Priesthood refers to Bridge Builders. – those who bridge the gap between God and men.

Conclusion

Thank God for He is the Builder, not us. We are to join the Builder and learn to be inclusive to bless everyone around us (physically disabled, immature etc..)

Are we able to:

- Overcome our differences to come together as one?
- Come together and go to our neighbors to testify and preach the excellency of THE ONE who can lead them out of darkness and into His love and light?

Questions for Discussion and Sharing:

1. How do you see AMC becoming and being “The House of God and the Gate of Heaven”? (Gen 28:17)
2. What kind of stones must we be if we are to extend the house of God to others? What obstacles or pitfalls must we look out for in this building work?