

Most difficult sermon to preach. Could praise the bldg and workers and have right to. Rejoice in what God has given etc. But want to think of broader considerations. Mind went back to other places and ways in which God dwelt with men.

1. Walked with Adam until fall.
2. Talked directly with Abr, Moses. Gen 12, Ex 3.
3. In wilderness ordained a tabernacle. Small building. 175'x87½'. Walls around court only 8½' high. Not pretentious. God dwelt there and met people there. But thru priest. Presence shown by cloud and fire. But Is had to look out of tent to cloud or to priest. Couldn't go into presence of God.
4. Temple. David's purpose and Sol's realization. 2 Chron 6. God dwelt there. Same as tab except didn't move around. They knew they were people of God but in a sense it was 2nd hand knowledge.
5. In X, Jn 1:14, 18. Suppose human were to take animal body. See him at Laz's tomb, weeping and commanding.
6. Where does God dwell today in Electra? None of 1st 5. In the church, in this church.

I. What is the Church?

- A. Assembly. Acts 19:41; 7:38.
- B. Body of professing Xns either in 1 place as Phil 1 or this town or without reference to place.
- C. Body of possessing Xns. Technical sense, 1 Cor 12:13. Visible is shell, invisible is kernel. Diff to distinguish bec overlap. Clear that ch is not a build, Acts 7:48. Ch is you. Where does God dwell in this town? Marvels of grace--in me. 1 Cor 6:18; 2 Cor 6:16 Not God walking with, talking to, tab, or in X, but right inside me. Need more churches in Electra? Yes, but need more temples, more Xns. Rom 8:9.

II. What use in the church? Organization, external social work (salt and light), internal social work (widows and orphans), of secondary imp't.

1. Produce holy Xns ans set standard of holiness in world, Eph 2:10, 4:13. Way people see X and God today is thru ch, thru you.

2. Rescue men from world, not save world.

3. Be X's lover. Obedient, helpful, zealous, eager to please and see.

Of what use the ch? Of what use are you.

This ch will be used as each Xn is used.

III. How can this church be used.

Dedicate this bldg. Suppose we didn't ded this bldg Any organization might use it. Use is related to it's dedication. That means

1. Ownership. Does God own you.

2. Possession. Can own without possessing.

3. Control. Trustees can own, possess, but not control a bldg. God may own you but wife or family might control. Or a sin.

Where does God dwell in this town? I hope people will say in that church, but hope they will go further and say, in that man or woman. Housing shortage? Yes, and it's up to you to do something about it. Get your own house in order and then tell others that God wants to come and live in them.

*"Not your own"! To Him ye owe
All your life & all your love;
Live, that ye His praise may show,
Who is yet all praise above.
Every day & every hour,
Every gift & every power,
Consecrate to Him alone,
Who hath claimed you for His own.*