

College of the Scriptures

Greater Christ Temple APOSTOLIC CHURCH

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

“The Place of God’s Presence” ***Habitation vs. Visitation*** ***Part 2***

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pastor / teacher



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Sustaining The Habitation

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? **17** If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

- The place where God dwells must be holy.
 - Holy = (Heb. “Qodesh”) – Sacred, in the sense of being **solely devoted** to a deity
 - Holy also carries the simpler meaning of “set apart” or “separated”, thusly, “not common”, and by implication, “**royal**”. This is the definition most closely applied to God, and **by connection to Him** it then applies to us, the saints (holy ones).

- If the holy place (temple) becomes defiled, God will not dwell in it
(Abomination of Desolation)
 - Defile = (Gk. “phtheiro”) to spoil, whither, ruin, or deprave by moral influence
 - He who ruins (phtheiro) God’s temple will be ruined (phtheiro) by God!
1 Corinthians 9:27
27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.
 - This doesn’t only apply to individuals, entire churches can become disqualified:
Revelation 2:5
5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent.

Leviticus 19:2

2 "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God *am* holy.

Leviticus 20:26

26 And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord *am* holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.

- **“Have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine”** means that God’s people have been specially selected and sanctified, or set apart, devoted, **dedicated by God to God**, and solely for God’s usage.

1 Peter 1:16

16 because it is written, "*Be holy, for I am holy.*"

- By this then, we are called to be separated from “others”, set apart from those who do what is “common”. Set apart as belonging to God and obeying His⁴

every word as His special possession. This is also the call for us to be un-common, to be royal as He is royal by obeying the royal law. The lifestyle of the saints will set them apart, “let your light so shine among men that they may SEE your good works...”

Hebrews 12:14-17

14 Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: **15** looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; **16** lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. **17** For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

- No man will see the LORD (in peace) apart from (without) holiness!

- A root of bitterness can spring up from our love for and connection to this world (aeon/world order), thusly, we are called to be separated from the current culture (the sum of attitudes, customs, and beliefs that distinguish a particular group {cult} of people), firstly in our hearts, then in our lives!

Galatians 6:14

14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom **the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.**

- Holiness, being the separating of our hearts **from** the world (aeon), and **unto** God, means that holiness itself is a **death** (separation).
- Holiness is an inward condition wherein a person's heart (spirit) is **separated** from the world and devoted to God

1 John 2:15-16

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

- **Righteousness** is the measurable outward manifestation of holiness, it is holiness as seen through our thoughts, words, and actions when they are in agreement with the Word of God.
- Holiness then is the **cause of death**, the **separating** of the heart from the old life and the world, and righteousness is the manifestation of holiness. Once the old man is dead, his house is vacated and the Holy Spirit can make you His habitation, His Temple!
- We must also understand what prevents the habitation of God's Spirit:

The answer is that **sin** prevents a person's connection with God:

Isaiah 59:1-2

1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. **2** But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

• **Sin can be understood in components, iniquity, transgression, and wickedness:**

- **Iniquity** (Heb. “avon”, pronounced “Ah-vone”) = the inward inclination toward evil. Iniquity is the weakness or tendency to fall under temptation in specific areas. Iniquity is both learned and overcome by repetition.
- **Transgression** (Heb. “khetah”) = the action of violating God's principles (in the sense of making an error). Transgression is the outward manifestation of iniquity. This manifestation of sin is overcome with true repentance, the

effort to correct one's ways. Transgression embodies the individuals struggle against sin.

- **Wickedness** (Heb. “shagah”) = to deliberately disobey, consciously choosing to violate God's principles, and identifying internally with the principles of evil.
 - Wickedness is when a person embraces the way of evil. Wickedness is outright rebellion. With wickedness there is no struggle against sin, but rather the full acceptance of evil.

1 John 3:4-6

4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. **5** And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. **6** Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

- “law” is a translation of the Hebrew word “Torah”. Torah literally means instruction or doctrine (teaching).

- The words “transgresseth the law” appear in other translations as “commits lawlessness”, which would be “Torahlessness”. To live outside of the Law (instructions) of God. To be a rebel against God.
 - Note: the word “committeth” is (Gk.) “poieo” = a **prolonged** form of “to do” / “to **practice**.”

- When we cast the instructions and teachings of God aside, we have definitively entered into sin and separated ourselves FROM God instead of separating ourselves UNTO God, hence, God may visit, but won’t inhabit.

A close-up photograph of a person in a dark blue suit, looking down with their hands clasped in prayer. They are holding a dark blue Bible with the words "HOLY BIBLE" embossed on the cover. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the hands and the cover of the Bible.

Virtual Prayer *Meeting*

Thursdays @ 6 PM

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Send all prayer requests
to greaterctc@gmail.com

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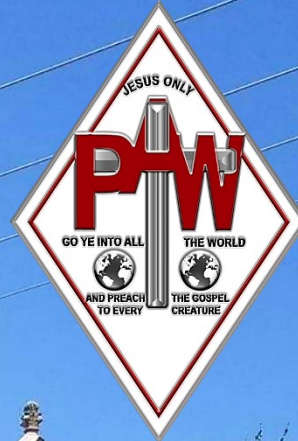
Sunday School @ 9:00 AM

Morning Worship @ 10:30 AM

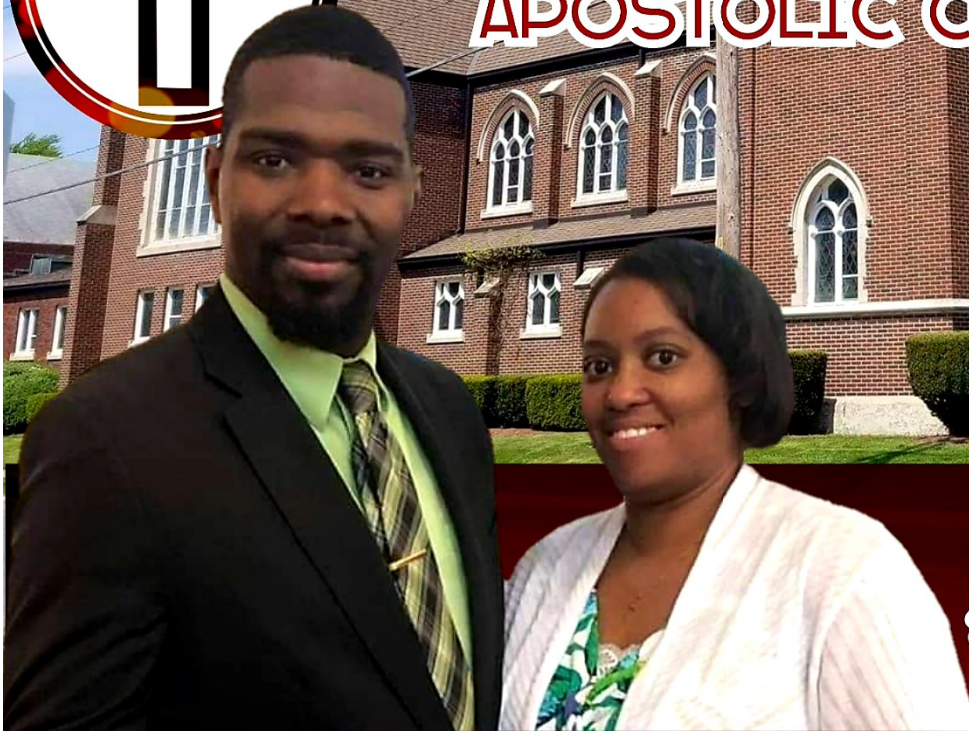
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Greater Christ Temple APOSTOLIC CHURCH



Pastor
Mark A. Haywood
First Lady
Krishana Haywood

GREATER CHRIST TEMPLE

T-SHIRT AND DENIM
SUNDAY APRIL 30
AT 10:30 A.M.
BRING A FRIEND