

**Text: Eph 2.19-22**

For review today, I just want to cover chapter 2:

1. Verses 1-10: The work of God in Saving Men (individual salvation)
2. Verses 11-22: The Work of God in Creating a New Order
  - a. 11-13: The work in the Gentiles (drawing near)
  - b. 14-18: The work of peacemaking (breaking the wall)
  - c. 19-22: The work of church building [**Today's study**]

Key word: "**building**"

Read Eph 2.19-22

1. Identify the "building related" words in the text

Household (19), foundation, corner stone (20), building, fitted together, temple (21), built together, dwelling (22)

2. What words describe the Ephesians past and present? (19)

Past: strangers/aliens; Present: fellow citizens

3. What do these terms point to in the preceding verses?

They were far from God (11-13); the wall is broken down (14-18)

4. Who are the "saints" in v. 19?

Jewish Christians, proof to come

5. Defining terms: household, building, dwelling

Household = the people "of a house," family, staff, etc.

Building = a building as being constructed, then the finished building

Dwelling = habitation, dwelling place

6. What is this new building built upon?

Foundation of apostles and prophets

7. Which "prophets" are meant?

New Testament prophets like Luke, James, Jude and others, see Eph 4.11 and Christ as corner stone (

Ep 4.11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

8. What does Jesus as “corner stone” mean?

The corner stone sets the lines of the building, everything else must conform to it.

9. How is it that a building “is growing”? (21)

It is made up of “living stones” who keep being added year by year (Christians, new converts) – see 1 Pt 2.5

<sup>1</sup> Pt 2.5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

10. What does it mean that this building is the dwelling place of God in the Spirit?

The Spirit, in a sense, indwells the church as He does individuals, and true churches, made of living stones (true converts), are rooms in the great building of God, where God dwells

### Conclusion:

Extra observation from Calvin, on the foundation of the apostles & prophets, i.e. the Scriptures:

“If the doctrine of the apostles and prophets is the foundation of the Church, the former must have had its certainty before the latter began to exist.”<sup>1</sup>

He means the church (RC) doesn't judge the Scripture; the Scripture judges the church.

The church is formed by Christ, through the work of his apostles and prophets, out of living stones made up of believing Jews and Gentiles with no division between them.

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<sup>1</sup> John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. Henry Beveridge, vol. 1 (Edinburgh: Calvin Translation Society, 1845), 90–91.