



From Where I Sit . . .

“A VESSEL UNTO HONOR--2 Tim. 2:20-21”

Have you ever driven into a city and seen the sign, “This city is a bird sanctuary.” Well that means, do not kill birds. They’re off limits to the public---protected from danger. A Sanctuary is a haven, a shelter, a protected area, a place of refuge. In **Isaiah 32:1-2**, a prophecy of the coming Messiah who would reign in righteousness, Messiah is portrayed as this type of sanctuary:

“Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.”

Religiously, a sanctuary refers to a consecrated place. Regarding the Jewish Temple, it referred to the holy of holies, the most sacred part of a religious building. The individual Christian’s relationship to the Lord is also thought of as that of a sanctuary. Observe two senses in which this is true.

Religiously, we are a temple for God’s Holy Spirit--and thus a sanctuary or holy place for God’s spirit to dwell based on **1Cor. 6:19**. In practical terms, the Christian is a sanctuary in that he’s a special refuge or protected area that reflects honor to the one who made him based on **1 Cor. 6:19**.

The Christian serves as an oasis, or haven, a shelter in the time of other people’s troubles. Not only are our individual bodies temples for God, but collectively we go together to make up God’s Spiritual Temple the church. That too is a sanctuary of God through the Spirit.

Eph 2:20-22 *“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”*

1 Pet 2:9 *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”*

Obviously both of these concepts require that we conduct ourselves in such a way as to give honor to God in Christ, both in the church and in our private lives. In **2 Tim. 2:20-21**, Paul draws a verbal picture of a great house filled with many vessels. Some were gold, silver, and others of earth and wood. The prime distinction in them was that some were to honor, and some to dishonor. If one is a vessel of dishonor, he must “purge himself.” Means to cleanse, separate one’s self from evil. Then we can become a vessel unto honor in the Lord’s House, the church. As such a vessel we become a sanctuary reflecting the beauty and glory of our maker and King.

. . . . Terry Broome

