

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

SIX HOUSES

by John Isaac Edwards

The word “house” appears more than 2,000 times throughout the Bible. It is used different ways, depending on the context. I am calling to attention six (6) houses:

1) **THE FAMILY.** The word “house” is often used of the family relationship. God told Noah, “*Come thou and all thy house into the ark*” (Gen. 7:1). “*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house...*” (Heb. 11:7). Cornelius was said to have “...*feared God with all his house...*” (Acts 10:2). Three things about the family-house: First, it is God-instituted (Gen. 2:18-24). Second, it is man-headed and woman-subjected (Gen. 3:16; Eph. 5:22-33). Third, it is the place for child-rearing (Gen. 1:28; Eph. 6:4).

2) **A DWELLING PLACE.** “*And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle...*” (Gen. 33:17). The dwelling-house is a place for practicing hospitality. This was demonstrated by Lot in Genesis 19:2-11 and by Rebekah and Laban in Genesis 24:23-32. The dwelling-house is also where spiritual teaching should take

place (Dt. 6:7-9; 11:19-21; 5:42; 20:20). Eating and drinking takes place in the dwelling-house (Acts 2:46; 1 Cor. 11:22, 34). The book of Haggai finds the Lord’s people putting too much emphasis on this house, and not enough attention being given to the Lord’s house (Hag. 1:2-9).

3) **THE OLD TESTAMENT TEMPLE.** It came into David’s mind to build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:2, 7). Yet, God would not allow such as David had been a man of war and shed much blood. The temple-house would be built by David’s son, Solomon (1 Ki. 4-8). It was built according to the divine pattern (2 Sam. 24). This house was the place where Jews assembled for worship (Dt. 16).

4) **THE PHYSICAL BODY.** Did you know your body is referred to as a house? It is! “*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens*” (2 Cor. 5:1). In describing the aging process, the Preacher spoke of “...*the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble...*” (Eccl. 12:3). This body houses the spirit. “*For as the body without*

the spirit is dead...” (Jas. 2:26). “...*the Lord...formeth the spirit of man within him*” (Zech. 12:1). We need to take care of the body-house and glorify God in it (1 Cor. 6:18-20).

5) **THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.** Paul wrote Timothy, “*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God...*” (1 Tim. 3:15). This house is “*spiritual*” in nature (1 Pet. 2:5). The church-house is God-planned (Eph. 3:10-11) and Christ-built (Mt. 16:18).

6) **THE MEETINGHOUSE.** This is the place where the church meets. Authority for the meetinghouse is included in the command to assemble (Heb. 10:25). The command to assemble necessitates a place. The use of the meetinghouse is limited by the Scriptures. It is restricted to spiritual purposes for which the Lord has called His people together. Such includes worshipping God (Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:19) and teaching the word of God (Eph. 4:12; 1 Tim. 3:15).

We invite you to become a member of God’s house, and assemble with us in this house.

SOME THINGS MONEY CANNOT BUY

by John Isaac Edwards

Some think with enough money they could buy anything. Sorry to disappoint you, but if you had all the money in the world you still could not buy:

1) THE GIFT OF GOD. "...when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:18-19). Such was not for sale! He was told, "Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money" (Acts 8:20).

2) A LIFE WITHOUT EVIL. 1 Timothy 6:10 informs us that "...the love of money is the root of all evil..." Here is the key to seeing good days: "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek

peace, and ensue it" (1 Pet. 3:10-11). Money can't buy that!

3) GUARANTEE AGAINST APOSTASY. Paul said of those who coveted after money, "...they have erred from the faith..." (1 Tim. 6:10). To err from the faith is to apostatize. We must continue in the faith to be pleasing to God (Col. 1:23). This and 1 Timothy 4:1 show it is possible for children of God to "...depart from the faith..."

4) SORROW-FREE EXISTENCE. Those who covet after money "...pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Tim. 6:10). Wise Solomon revealed, "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it" (Prov. 10:22). There is only one place where a sorrow-free existence is found — in the new Jerusalem where "...God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain..." (Rev. 21:4).

5) REDEMPTION. Peter penned, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ..." (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Redemption is made possible "...through his blood..." (Eph. 1:7); not money! So, no buying an indulgence to purchase exemption from the punishment of sin!

6) REWARD IN HEAVEN, NOR HOME ON HIGH. The song *Count Your Many Blessings* says, "Money cannot buy your reward in heaven, nor your home on high." Matthew 5:12 and 6:1 speak of the heavenly reward. 2 Corinthians 5:1-9 looks ahead to the home on high. Such will be given to those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev. 21-22). Your name in the register requires obedience; money will not 'foot the bill'! (Rev. 22:14).

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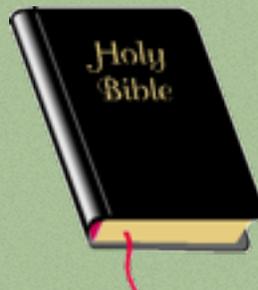
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