

What justifies the building?

Pastor Tshalo Katshunga, 28 June 2013

1 Chronicles 28:1-2, 9-10, 19; 1 Chronicles 29:5-6,9; Matthew 23:38; Matthew 24:1-2

1. God wants a permanent place for Himself.

A church building is not justified unless God Himself is present in it, in which case His presence must be unmistakable. Technically speaking we should not be inviting God in our midst as though He were a visitor in His own house. This is abnormal behaviour, often depicted by Christians. We build (God's house) because we want to create a resting place for our God.

The presence of God must be perceivable by everyone who comes into His house. Before anybody puts their foot in the church, the activities of God must already be there. Anyone who enters must find God's atmosphere. Without the presence of God there is no temple but a building; what makes the church is the presence of God. When Jesus left the temple, it moved from being the temple to a building, to being a thing and ultimately it became just rubble.

A church leadership that is intelligent fights for the presence God.

2. God wants a sanctuary where He meets with His people

If the church is God's dwelling place, we owe Him faithfulness. When leaders are faithful to God, they create an atmosphere where people feel welcomed to meet God. As leaders we are the lenses through which people see God. We have to understand when God says "it is His temple, built as a sanctuary, where I meet with my people".

Our focus should be on doing what matters to God. If we miss God in the building process, we have wasted the people of God's money.