

GOD'S WAY OF BRINGING PEOPLE TO HIMSELF

JOHN 2:13-25

Please personalize answers to the questions in the lesson by answering “I”, not “you”!

BACKGROUND: The Old Testament temple was a building. The New Testament temple is the heart of believers. One contains a symbol of God's presence. The other has the reality of God's presence dwelling within. (See **I Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19**.)

IT WAS PICTURED in the Old Covenant. “The primary meaning of the temple was the same as that of the ark it was constructed to enshrine—a symbol of God's presence in the midst of His people (Exod. 25:21-22).” Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, p. 1562. The death of animals to pay for each person's sins represented God's hatred and punishment of sin and the price to be paid for it so that we could have eternal life, fellowship with Him, and worship Him. Jesus' anger in the temple showed His abhorrence to man's way of cashing in on the people's attempts at worship. (**John 2:13-17, fn 2:14[1st], fn 2:17, Matthew 12:6, fn 12:6, Hebrews 10:1-18, fn 10:3, fn 10:4, fn 10:17**) *What prevents you from worship of God?*

NOW IT IS REVEALED in Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection. Your life rests upon the fact that, after three days in the grave, Jesus was resurrected by God's power. His sacrifice for sin was accepted by the Father. As you lay your sins on Jesus, He takes them on Himself and gives to you His righteousness. He also gives you the Holy Spirit and the certainty that you will be united with Him in a resurrection like His. (**John 2:18-22, fn 2:21, 22, John 20:24-29, fn 20:29, I Corinthians 15:13, 14, fn 15:13-18, Philippians 3:10, fn 3:10, Romans 6:5, fn 6:5ff**) *In what ways could Christ's resurrection help you live your life?*

NOW HE GIVES US A NEW HEART. If you truly believe the Lord Jesus Christ, you were united with Him on His cross, united with Him in His burial, united with Him in His resurrection, and given a new heart. (**John 2:23-25, fn 2:23-25, Jeremiah 17:9, fn 17:9, 10, Ezekiel 36:25-27, fn 36:25-27, Romans 10:8-12, fn 10:8-12, Romans 6:1-11, fn 6:11, II Corinthians 5:17, fn 5:17**) *How did you get a new heart?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord? Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?

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