God is Looking for Vessels The VISION Newsletter / February 2018 Pastor E. Keith Hassell

2 Timothy 2:19-22 (NKJV) "Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.' ²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. ²¹ Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. ²² Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Our heavenly Father is building a GREAT house! The Greek word for "great" is *megas* from which we get the English word MEGA. It refers to something big, high, large, mighty, and strong. The Greek word for "house" refers to a family abode or home. A house can refer to a structure but in this case it refers to a family dynasty such as in "the house of David". Yes our Father is building a GREAT HOUSE!

The foundation of God's house is firm and established. It is firmly established on two realities. First, God knows who are His redeemed sons and daughters. Second, those who claim to be His sons and daughters will depart from iniquity. They pursue holiness as they seek to bear and reflect His image.

The Hebrew word for "son" (ben) and for daughter (bath) are used to designate builders of the house or family. The Father is building His house with mature sons and daughters. The Greek or Western concept of maturity is based on knowledge. However, knowledge is not a guarantee of maturity; knowledge puffs up. The Hebrew concept of maturity, on the other hand, is based on character; love edifies. Mature sons and daughters are the means or vessels through which the Father will build His house.

"Vessels" can refer to an apparatus, implement, or piece of equipment. Peter referred to the wife figuratively as a vessel in her role in the marriage and family. Vessels of honor are used for honorable purposes. Vessels of dishonor are corrupt vessels unworthy of honorable purposes. God knows which vessels are honorable and which are dishonorable. In the church both are present. Paul uses vessels as a metaphor to illustrate the difference between true and false believers. God is not distraught with the presence of false believers in His house. They are doing the devil's work, but God sovereignly uses them to reveal those whose faith is genuine.

The choice of becoming a vessel of honor is up to us. We are all vessels. The question is what kind of vessel will we be? Paul said if we want to be a vessel of honor that God can use then we must purge ourselves from things that bring dishonor and shame upon God and His house. Then we will be a vessel of honor, sanctified (holy, set apart), useful (profitable for use), and prepared (made ready and available) for every good work.

In prayer I believe the Lord spoke a very important word to me for the church which I wrote down as accurately as I could. The word is:

"It is time for the church to be the church. It is time for the church to stop playing church and to be the church. It is time for every member to be in their place. It is time for every worker to be busy. It is time to cut the cord on other things that take away your time and energy that I have reserved for Myself. It is time to hear the call to come. It is time to take My yoke upon you and to learn from Me. It is time to set your hand to the plow and not look back. It is time to receive a fresh vision. It is time to receive a fresh anointing. It is time to display a fresh obedience to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. What other calling is higher? What other calling is nobler? What other calling is eternal? What other calling is worth the sacrifice of My highest call? Now is the time to hear My voice and to rise up in faith. Now is the time to

rise up in obedience. Now is the time to hear My voice and do My will. For I know the plans that I have for you, says the LORD. Plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Your future and your hope is in Me and nothing else. How long will you tarry? How long will you wait? How long will you hold back until a better day? Behold today is the day. Now is the time. Now is the time of opportunity. Now is the day of grace. For I will give grace to him who humbles himself before Me. I will resist the proud but I will give grace to those who acknowledge their need for Me. For what I call you to do you cannot do in your own strength. What I call you to do you cannot do in your own power. What I call you to do you cannot do in your own wisdom. What I call you to do is not for your own glory but for My glory. For I desire to glorify Myself in the earth and I will do it through you. Even now My eyes search to and fro to find those whose hearts will be loval to Me. Now is the time to count the cost. Now is the time to offer up the sacrifice that is pleasing to Me. Now is the time to expect greater things. Now is the time to believe for miracles. Now is the time to believe for the harvest. Now is the time to prepare vessels for the harvest. For surely I am at work in these days to draw a people to Me. And I will draw My people to places who are preparing vessels. The harvest is truly great but the laborers are few. Pray to Me that I might raise up laborers for this harvest. Pray that I might choose you to be among My vessels. Many are called but few are chosen. If a man will purge himself of everything that hinders and defiles, and prepares himself, he will be a vessel for honor, a vessel that I will use. There will be some who expect to be used by Me who will be set aside because they refuse to purge and prepare themselves. Others who thought themselves unworthy will be counted worthy and will rise before Me. Now is the time and now is the day to be consecrated unto Me. Now is the day and the time to get into My presence. Now is the time to close yourself off from the world around you so that you might hear My voice like never before. Those who will meet me in the secret place I will reward openly. Those who sow with tears will reap with joy. My eyes look to and fro even now. Will I find one in this place who will answer My call? Will there be found here a church who will rise up to be fully consecrated to fulfilling My purpose in the earth? If so then I will fill this place with glory. I will fill this place with flocks of men and shepherd them. In this place I will establish My flock and they will be secure and flourish in the earth. Here My joy will be full and my peace will rest upon you. And all will see that there is a God in heaven and that there is a Savior who still saves, who still heals, who still delivers, and who still makes whole. I will do this for the one whose heart is perfect toward Me. The night is far spent. The day is at hand. Blessed are those who watch. Blessed are those who are found working. They shall receive their reward and will enter into My joy. Those who have ears to hear, let them hear what the Spirit says."

Many are unconcerned with God's house and seek to build their own. Theirs will fall but God's will stand for eternity. He is building it now. The Lord is looking for vessels of honor prepared and ready to do their part to build His great house. May He find one in us. May He find one in me!