

I. THE TEMPLE IS INTENDED TO BE A PLACE OF _____ (and worship) FOR ALL WHO WILL COME. Isa. 56:6,7 - And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Heb. 10:25 - “Let us not give up meeting together....but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

II. IT CAN BECOME A PLACE FILLED WITH OTHER THINGS

His anger was directed at those who exploited those in _____, and at those who made it difficult, if not impossible, for _____ people to enter God’s house. In the midst of the buying and selling, prayer was impossible.

What is crowding out worship/prayer in the life of the church?

NOTE: This is the second time Jesus has had to cleanse the temple - John 2, 3 years earlier. This points up the need for regular diligence over our prayer/worship. If you’re too _____ to pray, you’re too _____!

III. ONCE CLEANSED, IT CAN FULFILL ITS RIGHTFUL PURPOSE

A. It has to be the house of _____
“Judgment begins at the house of God” - I Peter 4:17

B. Then it can be the house of prayer - “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” - Ps. 66:18

C. And then it becomes the house of _____ - v. 14ff

IV. _____ ARE THE TEMPLE! - I Cor. 3:16,17 - “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?.....for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”

A. *We* are to be a place of prayer - prayer and worship must play a central part in our lives.

B. Other things can _____ out prayer and worship - and I need to ask God to cleanse me from the things that crowd it out.

C. Once cleansed, we, too, can be
a. the house of purity
b. the house of _____
c. the house of power

CONCL. What is keeping you from being the place of prayer? Will you deal with it?

