

12-3-17 Message from 12-4-94
BUILDING GOD'S WAY BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

Psalms 127:1 {A Song of degrees for Solomon.} Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Psalms 127:2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Psalms 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Psalms 127:4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Psalms 127:5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Recently, I was cleaning out my office and rearranging things. I came across some blueprints and sketches of additions and work that we did when we built some additions on the church. I remember spending hours planning what we needed to do. I even found an old material list of items we put in the bulletin that we needed for our first building project. Back then you didn't need a professional architect to draw up plans but it was important to plan. Much of the work we did I drew up the plans and ran it by the men and we did the work ourselves. Today if you want to build an outhouse the township wants blue prints. Even 20 years ago when I built my house there was a lot of freedom back then but I had a professional architect draw me up plans so I could get various bids on work I had done. I remember the framer I hired failed to follow the prints and had to redo a the floor joists in our family room because he didn't follow the prints. Planning is very important when you build.

Our text this morning talks about building a house.

Psalms 127:1 {A Song of degrees for Solomon.} Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it.

As we enter the last month of the year, it is only natural that we look back on the year, and maybe even our lives, and see how we have fared. I don't know about you but I am constantly meditating on how I can make my life more profitable. When I was 12 years old, I took a pencil and paper and wrote down a set of goals for my life. What was amazing was almost everything on that list was coming to pass. Then though a series of events, I realized there was someone who had a different set of goals for my life. My goals, my little list, is meaningless unless the Lord wills and works and allows me to do the things I desire to do!

The older I get the more I realize that without the Lord I am totally helpless to do anything! As the Psalmist says, unless the Lord build the house labour is in vain building it. How many turns and twists have you experienced in your life? Could you have predicted so many of the events of your life? The Lord alone is able to give us success in our homes.

One of my favorite Psalms is Psalm 127 which speaks to this very issue.

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This morning I would like to just park on this Psalm and share some thoughts about what it says and how we should apply what it says to our personal lives.

Consider first of all.

I. THE FIRST THING WE NEED IN BUILDING GOD'S WAY IS A REALIZATION OF OUR Total Inability TO BUILD PROPERLY WITHOUT HIS DIRECTION:

The word house is used in a broad way in the Bible.

In of yourself you are totally incapable of building (a house).
There are many references to building a house in the Bible:

Your Body called a house: You body is the temple of God.

Your family is called a house: The house of Abraham, hose of Joseph, David.

You live in building called your house:

Your country or city is considered a house: House of Israel.

The Church is called the house of God: I Tim 3:15 house of the living God (Church).

No matter what house you refer to I believe the verse is true. Unless the Lord build the house labor is in vain building it.

Let's think of each definition of the term "House".

A. Consider your house called your body:

Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Luke 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

Luke 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

Luke 12:18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luke 12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Do you realize that your physical health and life is completely in God's hands?

Your body is a time bomb.

Only God knows when our souls will be required of us:

If you are a nonbeliever, you look to science for the answers as to why your body gives up. I remember talking to a man who in his latter years was suffering from health problems. He

believed in evolution. He said, you know if man has been around all these millions of years that means the experts should have had millions of years to figure out how the human body works. You go to the experts to get fixed, they take your money, and you are no better off for it. If I did that when someone brought their car in to get fixed I would be put in jail.

What he realized is the experts don't have the answers.

I just started reading through the Bible again, and as you read the genealogies in Genesis, you will see the life span of people was far greater before the flood.

Adam died at age 930.

Seth died at age 912.

Methuselah died at 969. Oldest man on record.

Today on record the oldest man that ever lived was a man in France who lived to be 122 years old. And what is that in comparison to the biblical record?

According to the Bible, 70 is the average and if we make it to 80 there will be a lot of visits to the doctor.

Psalms 90:10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Let's face the facts. God has told us that our days are numbered, and no matter how hard we try we are not going to change this.

The reason our health care system is in shambles is because we look to man for the solutions rather than God,

Unless the Lord build the house: health comes from God, He is the great healer. He alone has the answers.

But why are we surprised when in this life we have problems and experience health issues, why are we surprised that what the Bible says, comes to pass?

The wages of sin is " _____ " this is the only promise, anything else we get is grace and God's mercy.

Someone recently said to me, well we are promised three score and ten. No that is not a promise, the psalmist is saying that is an average, and in fact David died when he was 70 and Solomon died when he was 70.

In fact, the reason we die is because our house (our Body) ceases to rebuild itself. The healing process is something that only God can do The older I get the more I notice I don't heal as quickly as I did when I was younger. Why are we surprised? I love this verse which says,

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

The irony of it all. Here we are sinners complaining about aches and pains and yet we deserve death, yet we are alive. WHY ARE YOU COMPLAINING? You're alive! You deserve death.

Friday I went to a funeral of a young lady who died at age 28.
Monday I will get going to a funeral of a lady who died at age 76.

This old house is falling apart, unless the Lord holds it together it will collapse.

So your body is called a house, but also your family is called a house.

B. Consider Your family is called a house.

Probably this is what the main thought is in this verse. Yet it does say, Psalms 127:1 except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

So the exhortation goes beyond your physical family but no doubt includes it.

Without God's help you're are totally helpless to build your family. Are you able to protect them? Remember Job, what could he do to protect his children?

Recently I was talking with a friend who has experienced some tragedies in his life and family. A few years back I could never have imagined things would have led to the events he is experiencing. He seemed to do everything right except for one thing. He failed in his marriage.

Remember David and all the problems he had with his children. As godly as he was, his children broke his heart and it was all because of his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba.

In building your family it all starts with your marriage:

Marriage, without the Lord you can't keep marriage together. Before I was a Christian I did not know one couple I could look to and say they were happily married. So I resolved to not get married. When I received Christ and read the Bible I realized a good marriage was possible and should be the norm for a Christian. Ten months after I got saved I got married and my wife and I have been married for 42 years.

Look, when you leave the house of your parents and get married you start a new house. It all starts with marriage. Unless the Lord direct syou to the right spouse your house will be built on sand. The reason my wife and I have been married for 42 years is that our marriage was wrapped around the Lord. We meet at a Bible study, Church, the Lord, the Bible was what our marriage was all about. The Lord has built our house and is building our house.

Back in those days when I was young I used to have people telling me Don't get married. The reason they would say that was because they were not happily married.

Just before I got married I was learning to tune pianos from an 82 year old man. I told him I was getting married. He shook his head and said, bad mistake don't do it. You see he was married and miserable with wife. He even had to hide from his wife that he was teaching me tuning because he was afraid she would get mad. I'll never forget as we were discussing my plans to get married he was complaining to me about his health problems. He said, I don't know why it is that in the prime of my life I had to have a heart attack? I was 21 years old at the time and thought, how is it a 82 year old man could think he was still in the prime of his life?

When I read Psalm 127 I realized marriage was a good thing. In the Lord marriage is good. The reason it is not good to many people is because they abandon the Lord and the Lord abandons them.

Wife and I got married, while we were on our honeymoon that old tuner died.

Only with the Lord can you keep a marriage together in this wicked society that we live in. My wife and I have been married now for 42 years but I tell you that the Lord gets the credit for that. I can look through the years of our marriage and see how the Lord protected us, guided us, and directed us. The Lord protected us from making wrong decisions.

When I was young and we were just starting out. building our house so to speak, building our family.

Myself with where to live, I wanted to go where God wanted me to go.

The most important part of building is laying a foundation. The first years of marriage are building years. And those early years we laid the foundation of our marriage, and where we lived was a very important part of that.

I remember that one of the first jobs I got was being a janitor in our Church, I made about \$100 a week cleaning the floors of my parents bar which entailed 2 hours a week. I left that Job to be the janitor in my church where I made about \$100 a week for about 25 hours of work a week. You see the Bible says,

Psalms 84:10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

My dad offered me financial help, a car, and an apartment if I stayed in the Philadelphia area and went to school down there. Instead, I bought a little trailer and lived in that. Better to be a doorkeeper in the house of God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

God did all this and helped me to stay untangled with the world.

I WOULD BE DIVORCED IF I DECIDED TO LIVE DOWN HOME.
EVERY MOVE I MADE WAS A FOOLISH ONE AS FAR AS FINANCES.

But it was the will of God as far as building my house!

Best way to build a family is obey God and let God build it. Let God make the blueprints.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
Proverbs 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

The secret to building your house is to put God first.
Trust Him in all your ways, let Him direct you. Only He sees that future. He alone is your guide.

But when you try to scheme and manipulate and control it yourself, you will make a mess of everything.

There is no way I could orchestrate my life. God had to do it!

Unless the Lord build the house labor is in vain building it.

D. YOU LIVE IN A PHYSICAL HOUSE:

We need to trust God even in providing our physical abode:

How many details are there to building a physical house?

How hard is it to build a nice physical house and work 50 - 60 hours a week?

Most carpenters are so busy building other peoples houses they don't have time to work on their own.

UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE:

You can build a beautiful house but if that house is filled with strife what do you have?

Proverbs 21:9 It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

Proverbs 17:1 Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.

How many people think just having a beautiful material house all will be well.

Reminds me a fellow who built this beautiful house in the country. He took off 1 year from work to do so, and then after it was finished he just woke up one morning and left it all and divorced his wife.

Unless the Lord build your physical house labor is in vain to build it.

E. *Our country is considered a house:*

The house of David, meant the Davidic Kingdom.

Israel was Jacob, and God called the nation after his name.

We are U.S. citizens, we share a comradery, a common house.

It is sad that since our nation has abandoned the Lord we are in a state of confusion. Our moral compass is spinning all over the place. We choke on a gnat and swallow a camel when it comes to morality.

Some woman comes forward about someone who pinched their behind 35 years ago and it makes front page, but we kill over a million babies a year and that is a woman's right to choose.

Our nation is wholesale given over to perversion, corruption, and immorality.

We spend millions of dollars investigating some political offence while terrorism, and internet fraud runs rampant and North Korea is preparing nuclear missiles to destroy us.

Reminds me how Nero stood by and watched as Rome burned and tradition says he even played music. Why? Because he wanted to tear down the old Rome so he could build something new. So our politicians could care less about our country. They are hoping our president will fail so they think from the ashes they can build something better.

Because the Lord is not building America anymore. It was God who exalted our nation, and it will be God who abases our nation.

Psalms 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

It would do our political leaders some good to reflect on the fact that unless the Lord Builds the house Labour is in vain building it,

**At the first constitutional convention:
Benjamin Franklin's Request for Prayers at the Constitutional Convention
July 28, 1787**

The Constitutional Convention had been meeting for five weeks, and had hit a perilous deadlock. The large states were insisting that congressional representation be based on population; the smaller states wanted a one-state-one-vote rule. The entire effort to create a stronger union was in jeopardy. Eighty-one-year-old Benjamin Franklin, quiet during most of the deliberations, then addressed the group. According to James Madison's notes, here is what happened:

“Mr. President

The small progress we have made after 4 or five weeks close attendance & continual reasonings with each other-our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many noes as ays, is methinks a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the Human Understanding. We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of Government, and examined the different forms of those Republics which having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolution now no longer exist. And we have viewed Modern States all round Europe, but find none of their Constitutions suitable to our circumstances.

In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened,

Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection.- Our prayers, Sir, were heard, & they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor.

To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth- that God Governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his

notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that "except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and by word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest.

I therefore beg leave to move-that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that Service-

Our Country is a house and unless the Lord is with us we are in trouble.

F. The Church is called the house of God.

UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, LABOR IS IN VAIN.

Matthew 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

NO MAN CAN BUILD A CHURCH ONLY THE LORD. The true church only Christ can build . We are co labourers with God but he alone gives the increase.

I Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

I Corinthians 3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Now all that a man can be given is the keys or authority over the house of God. But God alone builds it.

The Church is the greatest and most elaborate house ever built.

SATAN CANNOT DESTROY IT.

ROME WAS NOT ABLE TO DEFEAT IT.

POVERTY COULD NOT DISCOURAGE IT.

IF ONE ASSEMBLY EVER CLOSED DOWN BECAUSE OF PERSECUTION 2 OTHERS WOULD SPRING UP IN IT'S PLACE.

NOW THE KEY IS THAT THE CHURCH THAT CHRIST'S BUILDS CANNOT EVER BE DESTROYED!

THE CHURCH FRANK BISSOL BUILDS WILL SOMEDAY FALL.

As a Pastor all I have is the keys to what God has built.

As long as I am a faithful steward over this work God will bless me.

My Job is to feed the Church of God while the Lord is away.

Pastoral apprenticeship, we took care of a ladies house while she was away.

Sprayed the bugs.

Another house, dogs had fleas, we had to care for the dogs and remove the fleas!

What is the likelihood of a person building by themselves a great cathedral building, they could not live long enough to do so. How much less can we build the house of God, without God's help and direction?

II. THE SECOND THING TO FOLLOW IN THE BLUEPRINT OF GOD IS THE REALIZATION THAT ALL HUMAN EFFORTS WITHOUT GOD IS TOTAL VANITY.

Psalms 127:2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

I hate nothing more than having wasted time.

How many things do we do in this life that are total vanity?

I remember a fellow who skipped Church because he panicked he could not find his keys to his business. He spent all day fretting and looking for them, and then Monday morning his wife took the laundry out of the washer and there they were in his pants.

Told him usually, when that happens the best thing to do is pray and forget about it for a while.

Psalms 127:2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Some people try so hard, they mess things up.

GOD WON'T SHARE HIS GLORY WITH ANOTHER!

It is vain to put effort into something that doesn't perpetuate itself.

Things that don't perpetuate themselves are dead.

III. THE NEXT STEP TO FOLLOW IN BUILDING GOD'S WAY IS TO FOCUS ON FEEDING THOSE THINGS THAT ARE Totally Self Perpetuating.

Psalms 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

God's creation is full of life, and that life perpetuates itself and reproduces.

The Heritage of God is wrapped up in Children.

I see more and more Pastors building Churches and not building a family!

Anything that you must perpetuate through human effort and works alone is dead.

A Car will run as long as you give it fuel, and it appears to be a live, but it is not alive, a car cannot perpetuate itself.

A Television will work as long as it is plugged in and it is tuned into the right channel, but it does not perpetuate itself.

A Computer, a machine, etc.

The houses that God builds Perpetuate themselves.

CHILDREN ARE THE HERITAGE, OR THE TRUE HOUSE OF GOD.

Body: Cells multiply and divide.

Viruses, leach off of good cells.

Cancer cells grow out of proportion to the rest of the body.

Much of the Church growth programs are unhealthy growth.

Steroids, etc.

Children Perpetuate.

Born again children perpetuate.

Churches Should Perpetuate.

Living things perpetuate.

PLANTS MAKE OTHER PLANTS.

ANIMALS PRODUCE OFFSPRING.

Let's follow God's blue print.

IV. Only God Gives Total Security.

Psalms 127:1 ... except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Psalms 127:4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

God is the one who guards and protects His people.

V. Total Contentment.

Psalms 127:5 **Happy is the man** that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

We will not be disappointed when we feed living things and not machines.

Disappointed with a car.

Perpetual maintenance, and a new one is not just born.

England was alive when she perpetuated other nations.