

## THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT

**TEXT: Psalms 127:1: Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman walketh but in vain.**

### Context:

**Psalms 122:1: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the House of the Lord.**

**Psalms 63:2: To see Thy power and Thy glory, as I have seen Thee in the Sanctuary.**

**Psalms 27:4: One thing I have desired of the Lord and that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the House of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple.**



This Psalm is designed to check up on our feelings of self-importance in a church building program. We have a tendency to congratulate ourselves on elated feelings of self-accomplishment. Taking pride in our successes tells the true story that we are more self-reliant than God-reliant. Only God knows the danger we are now in — headed for a downfall.



God ordered David to write this scripture (**Psalms 127:1**) in order to bring us back in line and to help us check our eye focus. If our eyes are on the Lord — having an eye single to the Glory of God — then we are free from spending our labors for nothing.

Here in this single verse we realize there are two buildings and two builders. There are two watchmen for the safety of the city. The second one without the first one is useless. The second builder without the help of the first builder is wasted effort. The question is not what will men think of our new building, but what does God think of it?

- **Does the Lord see it as a place to worship and glorify His Name?**
- **Does He see it as a place made ready as a soul-saving sanctuary or station?**

- **Is this really the place where saints are made ready to be the spotless Bride of Christ?**

Then and only then will He bring His blessing upon it.

The Lord is the Master Builder. Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. The second builder is wasting his time without the help of the Master Builder. We may rely on our cleverness, eloquence, humorous way of presenting the Gospel, on a pleasant personality like a smart politician for the people's favor, on our knowledge of the Bible, on our hard labor and work, or appeal to the influential and good prayers. But all our exertion and assertion have no right to claim the first place.



God places absolutely no premium for priorities on all our efforts done in the energy of the flesh without the required dependence on the Holy Spirit. Neither does God place any premium on our laziness either.

***Philippians 2:12-13:***

***12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.***

***13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.***

The Lord is telling every minister in the most plain and simple terms possible for language to convey: Only our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Only our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

***1 Corinthians 15:58: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.***

Also, if our labor is for ourselves and to make a name like those who attempted to build the big Tower of Babel, it will come to naught. Our helplessness will be clearly seen, as was theirs, when God confounded their languages. When we get top heavy and get a big head, God has an easy way of abasing us as you can easily see in the life of Nebuchadnezzar.

Unless the Lord keeps the city, the watchmen guards it in vain. If God

purposes to bring judgment upon a wicked city as Sodom, all the armies and defenders' arms are as useless as a fifth leg on a dog.

I want to call seven things to your attention which relate to the building of a new church:

## 1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BUILDING?



**1 Kings 6:1-4:**

***1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the Children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the House of the Lord.***

***2 And the house which king Solomon built for the Lord, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.***

***3 And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house.***

***4 And for the house he made windows of narrow lights.***

**Ezra 4:1-3:**

***1 Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the Temple unto the LORD God of Israel;***

***2 Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.***

***3 But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.***

## 2. WHAT ARE THE PARTICULARS GOD GIVES CONCERNING IT'S CONSTRUCTION?

**1 Kings 6:2-3:**

***2 And the house which king Solomon built for the Lord, the***



*length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.*

*<sup>3</sup> And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house.*

**a. The foundation is on the Solid Rock:**



***Matthew 7:24: Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:***

***Luke 6:48-49:***

***<sup>48</sup> He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.***

***<sup>49</sup> But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.***

**b. The Foundation is Christ alone!!!!**

***1 Corinthians 3:11: For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.***



**c. The Foundation is also the Apostles and Prophets.**

***1 Corinthians 3:10: According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.***

***Ephesians 2:20: And are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone.***

**d. The Cornerstone is Christ.**

***Acts 4:11: This is the Stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the Head of the Corner.***

**1 Peter 2:6: Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a Chief Corner Stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.**

### **3. The PROBLEMS AND PRESSURES IN BUILDING A CHURCH FOR JESUS.**

**Ezra 4:4-5:**

**4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,**

**5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.**

**Ezra 5:1-5:**

**1 Then the Prophets, Haggai the Prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the Name of the God of Israel, even unto them.**

**2 Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the House of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the Prophets of God helping them.**

**3 At the same time came to them Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?**

**4 Then said we unto them after this manner, What are the names of the men that make this building?**

**5 But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease, till the matter came to Darius: and then they returned answer by letter concerning this matter.**

**Luke 6:48-49:**

**48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.**

**49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.**



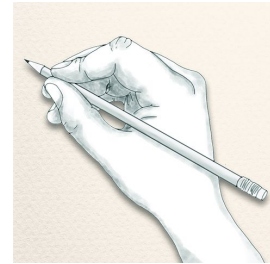
**1 Corinthians 3:13: Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.**

#### **4. THE PUNISHMENT OR PENALTY FOR THOSE HINDERING GOD'S BUILDING:**

**Ezra 6:11-12:**

**11 Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.**

**12 And the God Who hath caused His Name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this House of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed.**



#### **5. THE PRECEPTS FOR MAINTAINING THE HOUSE OF GOD.**

**Ecclesiastes 10:18: By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.**

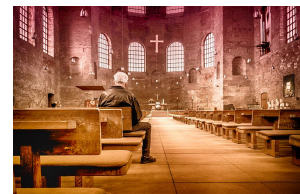
**Zechariah 6:12-15:**

**12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of Hosts, saying, Behold the Man Whose Name is The Branch; and He shall grow up out of His place, and He shall build the temple of the LORD:**

**13 Even He shall build the Temple of the LORD; and He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His Throne; and He shall be a Priest upon His Throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between Them Both.**

**14 And the crowns shall be to Helem, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the Temple of the LORD.**

**15 And they that are far off shall come and build in the Temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of Hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.**



#### **6. THE PRESERVATION OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.**

Keep it clean . . . for Holiness becomes thine House O Lord.

***Psalms 93:5: Thy Testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh Thine House, O Lord, for ever.***

## **7. TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING — LET US CLEANSE OURSELVES.**

***2 Corinthians 6:17: Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU.***

***2 Corinthians 7:1a: Having therefore these Promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves.***

## **SIN DEFILES THE CHURCH JUST LIKE IT DOES THE BODY, MIND, AND LAND.**

### **1. It defiles the body and soul:**

***Mark 7:20-23:***



***20 And He said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.***

***21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,***

***22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:***

***23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.***

***Matthew 15:11,18:***

***11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.***

***18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.***

***Leviticus 19:31: Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.***

***Ezekiel 14:11: That the house of Israel may go no more astray from Me, neither be polluted any more with all their transgressions; but that they may be My people, and I may be their God, saith the Lord God.***



**Ezekiel 20:31:** *For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O House of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be enquired of by you.*

**Ezekiel 22:11:** *And one hath committed abomination with his neighbour's wife; and another hath lewdly defiled his daughter in law; and another in thee hath humbled his sister, his father's daughter.*

**Ezekiel 23:13:** *Then I saw that she was defiled, that they took both one way,*

## **2. It defiles the church:**

**Leviticus 15:31:** *Thus shall ye separate the Children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile My Tabernacle that is among them.*

**Leviticus 20:3:** *And I will set My face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile My Sanctuary, and to profane My Holy Name.*

**Numbers 20:13:** *This is the water of Meribah; because the Children of Israel strove with the Lord, and He was sanctified in them.*

**2 Chronicles 36:14:** *Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the House of the Lord which He had hallowed in Jerusalem.*

**Jeremiah 7:30:** *For the children of Judah have done evil in My sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by My Name, to pollute it.*



**Ezekiel 5:11:** *Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast defiled My Sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall Mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.*

**Ezekiel 23:37-38:**



***37 That they have committed adultery, and blood is in their hands, and with their idols have they committed adultery, and have also caused their sons, whom they bare unto Me, to pass for them through the fire, to devour them.***

***38 Moreover this they have done unto Me: they have defiled My Sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned My Sabbaths.***

***Ezekiel 44:7: In that ye have brought into My Sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary, to pollute it, even My house, when ye offer My bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken My covenant because of all your abominations.***

***Daniel 11:31-32:***

***31 And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the Sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.***

***32 And such as do wickedly against the Covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.***

### **3. It defiles the land**

***Deuteronomy 21:23: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.***

***Leviticus 18:25: And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.***



***Numbers 5:3: Both male and female shall ye put out, without the camp shall ye put them; that they defile not their camps, in the midst whereof I dwell.***

***Numbers 35:33-34:***

***33 So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it.***

***34 Defile not therefore the land which ye shall inhabit, wherein I dwell:***

***for I the LORD dwell among the Children of Israel.***

***Jeremiah 23:10: For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right.***

***Ezekiel 29:3: Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.***



***Ezekiel 36:17: Son of man, when the House of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before Me as the uncleanness of a removed woman.***

Keep the unity of the Spirit . . . stay close to each other in the love of Christ.

***Psalms 133:1: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!***



***Psalms 122:3: Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:***

***Ephesians 4:3: Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.***

***Ephesians 4:13: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.***

***Ephesians 4:16: From Whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.***

## **7. THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IS TO FILL THE CHURCH BUILDING.**

God's house must be filled with His Spirit's power

***1 Kings 6:11-13:***

***11 And the word of the Lord came to Solomon, saying,***

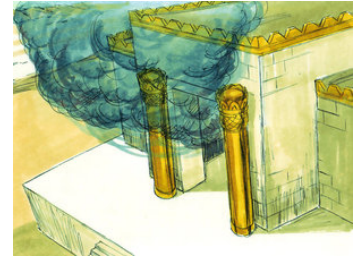
***12 Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in My Statutes, and execute My Judgments, and keep all My Commandments to walk in them; then will I perform My Word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father:***

***13 And I will dwell among the Children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel.***

***1 Kings 8:10-14:***

***10 And it came to pass, when the Priests were come out of the Holy Place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord,***

***11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the House of the Lord.***



***12 Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that He would dwell in the thick darkness.***

***13 I have surely built Thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for Thee to abide in for ever.***

***14 And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood;)***

***1 Corinthians 3:16: Know ye not that ye are the Temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?***

***2 Corinthians 6:16: And what agreement hath the Temple of God with idols? For ye are the Temple of the Living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.***

***Ephesians 2:20: And are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone;***

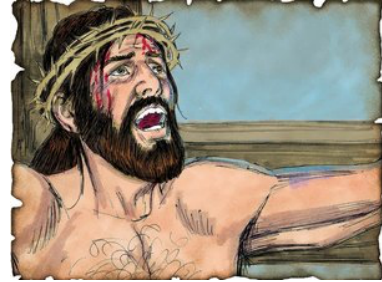
***1 Corinthians 3:16: Know ye not that ye are the Temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?***

***1 Corinthians 6:18-20:***

***18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.***

***19 What? know ye not that your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?***

**20 For ye are bought with a price:  
therefore Glorify God in your body, and in  
your spirit, which are God's.**



Conclusion: Godly men — true ministers of the Gospel — are working with Divine truths and are building up spiritual edifices for eternity. Peter said: Ye are living stones built up a spiritual house.

**1 Peter 2:5 : Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an Holy Priesthood, to offer up spiritual Sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**

This house is better and more enduring than any earthly building made by man. They shall deteriorate and decay, but the real Lord's Building will last to all eternity.

**Hebrews 3:6: But Christ as a Son over His Own house; Whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.**

This house — this spiritual building— is the habitation of God through the Spirit.

**Ephesians 2:22: In Whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit**

It dwarfs the most magnificent cathedrals of this world. It is indwelt by the Spirit of God as proof we are saved from our sins. Are you His house? Then you truly belong to the Lord. If Christ, the hope of Glory, is not in you, then you are lost.

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