

# Building Inspection: A Witnessing Guide

## Psalm 127:1

If Jehovah does not build the house,  
they who build it labor in vain



This is a good witnessing verse.

We may tell an unbeliever that his life is very much like a house. The likeness may be drawn in the fact that his life is an ongoing building project to be inspected by God when it is finished. Or the likeness may be drawn in his soul as a building that is presently either being built by God **OR NOT**.

All men's efforts to build their own houses are doomed for failure, we may tell him. "In vain" shows the futility of building apart from God.

This analogy allows the unbeliever to picture God eyeing his life. He can imagine God sizing him up. He can see that God may respect his building prowess, but that

leaving God out of the process is a direct insult against Him. This is a valuable insight for an unbeliever.

He can furthermore see that God gives him plenty of leeway to build his own house. God allows him the luxury of fine building materials (the good things of this life), but God will call him to account at the end. This is an important intersection for the unbeliever to reach.

We might even ask the unbeliever what he would do if *he* were the building inspector. Would his life include enough attention to doing good in general and honoring God in particular that he would pass inspection? Would God, then, likely approve his building's transfer to an eternal dwelling? Most people who have not been living for God will admit that they haven't given Him His due.

Here's the most important part. If we can bring the unbeliever to see that his building is condemned at this point (no matter if he only sees it tentatively for the moment), *we must not give the impression* that with a little brushing up on his building codes he can probably pass the next inspection. We must insist (politely) that a condemned building can never be renovated. The dishonor to God demands bulldozing. Only buildings God has overseen from blueprint onward will ever pass inspection.

The good news is (and we now see that everything to this point has been bad news: a proper presentation of the gospel) that God contracts the bulldozing work, the new blueprints, and the new building ***all in one operation!*** ***AND HE DOES IT ALL AT HIS OWN EXPENSE!!*** (Notice we did not say "for free". It is better to highlight that fact that salvation *must be* paid for, just not by us).

Christ's death is the hub of all God's renovating work. Dying with Him on the cross bulldozes our former lives; being reborn in Him draws up our new blueprints; living by God's directions and power is our new building project.

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