

Unless the Lord Builds the House

If you are anything like me, your first thoughts upon arising are of tasks that “must be” accomplished and the exact method by which that will happen. That is why we must take “every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.” Most of us can recall a time in our teenage years when we were infatuated by a member of the opposite sex and it was all we could do to keep thinking about them. I believe that Jesus wants us to feel that way about Him. Listen to what He says to the church in Ephesus through the aged apostle John. The amplified bible really brings out the urgency of this text so I have chosen to quote it here.

I know your industry and activities, laborious toil and trouble, and your patient endurance, and how you cannot tolerate wicked [men] and have tested and critically appraised those who call [themselves] apostles (special messengers of Christ) and yet are not, and have found them to be impostors and liars. I know you are enduring patiently and are bearing up for My name's sake, and you have not fainted or become exhausted or grown weary. But I have this [one charge to make] against you: that you have left (abandoned) the love that you had at first [you have deserted Me, your first love].

(Revelation 2:2-4 AMP)

The words abandoned and deserted are emphatic as if describing the heart of a jilted lover, because in reality the love relationship that Jesus desires to have with us is intimate and unwavering. The biggest obstacle to that most days is my preconceived agenda. The psalmist was mindful of the fact that even the most diligent efforts are fruitless unless the Lord is in the midst of them.

“Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep.” (Psalms 127:1-2 NKJV)

Charles Spurgeon comments on this passage in the Treasury of David; “The word *vain* is the key-note here, and we hear it ring out clearly three times. Men desiring to build know that they must labour, and accordingly they put forth all their skill and strength; but let them remember that if Jehovah is not with them their designs will prove failures. Without God we are nothing. **Great houses have been erected by ambitious men; but like the baseless fabric of a vision they have passed away, and scarce a stone remains to tell where once they stood.**”

Spurgeon, C. H. (2009). The treasury of David, Volume 6: Psalms 120-150 (83). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

Perhaps if the Lord was having coffee with me this morning He would say it this way;

“Do not miss the Joy of My Presence by carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders.”

Young, Sarah (2012-10-09). Jesus Calling: Enjoy Peace in His Presence (p. 176). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. [Jer. 6:16.] For My yoke is wholesome (useful, good--not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne. (Matthew 11:29-30 AMP)

The reality of all of this is that I am far more suited to take His yoke than any one that I would fabricate in my own mind so I think today I will try doing just that. Care to join me?

Jim Freed