

## Unless The Lord Builds The House...

(this was written last November)

<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.
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. Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD:
and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man;
so are children of the youth. 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.
(Psa 127:1-5)

For those of you who were wondering what a song of degree's is, it is really a song of ascent and these were Psalms that were <u>sung by Jews who went to Jerusalem for the Festivals</u> (Psalms 119-134).

This Psalm is one that I know from my youth. Unless you dedicate your home, and paths to the Lord whatever you try and accomplish will ultimately end in failure - particularly spiritual failure.

When you build a home with your spouse or even, if the Lord wills it alone, you must be willing to do as God commands you and dedicate that dwelling place to the Lord. A home that stands with God, and is founded by God can weather any storm. This does not mean that storms won't come, they will - it just means that a home that God has Lordship over and the people therein who are dedicated to him will be watched over by the most high.

Let my own life be a testimony to that. God has kept and watched over me through thick and and thin, and while I will never claim any kind of spiritual perfection I will say that because I have dedicated my home and my life to the work God has given me to do, he has looked out for me and watched over me in ways that only a few would even comprehend, let alone believe. I am here to **bear witness** that if you really dedicate your life to God and do the things he commands, despite cold shoulders, the sneering remarks, the people who withdraw from you because of your walk with God I tell you of a truth that he will look out for you. I am **not** telling you will always be in the lap of luxury but that God will be with you as long as you keep your home and lives

dedicated to him and his purposes.

As I watch our nation falter and fall for some pretty dark spirits, I am often reminded of this verse, that "... except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.". I think of all the money America spends of defense and intelligence, looking at threats to our nation and more often than not, conjuring up threats that aren't threats but rather are ways to make money for our Federal contractors and I say to myself that our military and security watchman more and more are watching in vain. They are not looking at the deeper threat to America. That threat is a spiritual one. As our nation continues it's slide away from God, what good is all of this misnomered 'defense' money when the nation has departed from the living God? The men on three standing rotating watches in command and intelligence bunkers - they are watching in vain. The men and women who spend months on submarine duty for our nuclear deterrent? Their work is in vain. Why? Because the work of this house (America) more and more is dedicated to the gods of secular humanism and at times, out and out satanism rather than the living God who sent his son Jesus Christ to die for our sins so that men might be made free from the laws of sin and death.

The devil, using his religious systems like Secular Humanism, wants to keep man ensnared in sin. He knows that any nation so encumbered is doomed, no matter how many cruise missiles it possesses, no matter how may Nuclear Subs it has at sea, no matter how many stealth fighters it can get in the air.

The God of battles knows the strengths and weaknesses of every military on this planet. He laughs at their 'show of strength' commonly done by the world's nations. God is sovereign and when a nation continues to defy his ways and do evil, trod down the poor man and deny justice to the weak, God will look down and determine that that nation and its system must be done away with. God will protect nations who protect his people, love justice, remember the poor and the defenseless and **look to the Lord for their strength and deliverance**. The Psalmist here (Solomon) is making plain that God alone is the key to security. God will protect that which he claims as his own. Let us serve God in spirit and in truth, know that we belong to him and remember this passage as Paul laid it out in the book of 1st Corinthians.

Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. (1Co 7:23)

That is right - we are as that song by Bob Dylan says, the property of Jesus. That's why the devil hates us so, God has called us out of satan's control.

The Psalmists goes on to tell us that we are wasting our time burning the midnight oil to get ahead. This is what the mammonites do - the work, sweat, toil and burning the midnight oil to get more money, a bigger house, a newer car, a more fashionable vacation, a sexier spouse. They are servants of Mammon and mammon is their God. Why is this - I think the answer is a simple one. The man of God has learned the secret of contentment. He's got clothes, food, a roof, work that gives him dignity and a living and he has learned the secret

of contentment. The man of the world is full of worry and work; plotting and sweating in order to get ahead in this world. But what did Christ say?

## Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life,** what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink;

nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.

Are ye not much better than they?

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying,

What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. (Mat 6:25-34)

Is Christ calling us to worldly ambition and a life of drudgery for a new Audi or a townhome in the suburbs? No, he is not. Rather he is giving us a key secret to living on earth as a saint. Worry is not good and that God will provide those things that are needful to his people.

Our problem is the west is that we are too materialistic. We focus on things and getting this and having that. As an aside, I worry about Christian refugee's who will come here from Syria and Iraq on that front. So many Christians find the ways of mammon, the fast cars, good looking women and the pleasures that America and the west has to offer to be too much for their faith... and they fall away.

We as Christians must learn to truly be content for this is what I think is **one of the foundations to a victorious mindset, especially in the materialistic western world.** 

Brothers, I know just how easy it is to get caught up in materialism. But I have watched those with money and I can tell you that they are trapped. Many of them are not happy, some are so miserable, they are popping anti-depressants - making 7 figure salaries!!. They work so hard and are so afraid of 'falling' and losing all that they they work mostly to save face and save their brittle ego's, which is protected by the million dollar toys they buy.

Brothers, there is great reward trusting in God. He knows best. Nothing on this earth is beyond his reach or grasp. Let us place our lives in the hands of a faithful creator who loved us so much he gave his son for us on the cross.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

(Rom 8:31-32)

As for our nation, let us pray that our leaders remember that honoring the most high God is the best 'National Security' policy that America can ever hope to implement. All the covert ops, black ops, secret spying programs nor stealth bombers or secret space weapons cannot protect a nation who has forsaken the Living God and given itself over to evil.

America would do well to remember this.

Ву,

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