



GRACE SO AMAZING

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FOR THE LORD TO BUILD HIS WORK

Psalms 127:1a

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it...”

Last week we observed what Jesus taught His disciples about sowing seeds, the soils' receptivity, spiritual warfare, and varying fruitfulness of the good ground. The parable was teaching the principles of soul-winning and how believers are to focus on sowing the seed of the gospel to...ALL MEN, EVERYWHERE.

This morning, we will consider another perspective regarding the Lord's work and how He wants believers to contribute to His work. We begin by seeing that the Lord Jesus is THE focus and builder of His work.

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# I. THE FAITH IS FOCUSED UPON CHRIST

❖ The Lord Jesus is the focus of His work:

➤ The Architect – Heb. 12:1-2

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto **Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## ➤ The Builder – Heb. 3:3

Heb. 3:3 For this *man* was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as **he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.**

## ➤ The Carpenter – Mark 6:3

Mark 6:3 **Is not this the carpenter**, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

➤ Chief Corner Stone – 1 Pet. 2:6, Psa. 118:22,  
Isa. 28:16

1 Pet. 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion **a chief corner stone, elect, precious:** and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Psa. 118:22 The stone *which* the builders refused is become **the head stone of the corner.**

Isa. 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for **a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation:** he that believeth shall not make haste.

➤ The Foundation – 1 Cor. 3:11, Isa. 28:16,  
1 Pet. 1:20

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

➤ Living Stone – 1 Pet. 2:4

1 Pet. 2:4 To whom coming, *as unto* **a living stone**,  
disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and*  
precious,

❖ The “exception” proves the rule. “Except the  
LORD build the house...”

## II. THE FUTILITY OF FRUITLESSNESS WITHOUT CHRIST

- ❖ Workers exercise futility when laboring without Christ – “...they labour in vain...”
- ❖ Workers can have accomplishments WITHOUT Christ – “...that build it...”

Mt. 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, **Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?**

23 And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me**, ye that work iniquity.



- ❖ Jesus gave an example of those that build on the wrong foundation:

Mt. 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, **which built his house** upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and **great was the fall of it.**

- ❖ Believers will be judged according to their works at the Judgment Seat of Christ:

2 Cor. 5:10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

1 Cor. 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

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.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

❖ Works abound but are simply empty, vain, and worthless without Christ.

### III. THE FRUITFULNESS OF FAITHFULNESS WITH CHRIST

- ❖ The Lord Jesus has a plan for believers regarding His work and reveals it to them.

Phil. 2:13 For it is **God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.**

- ❖ The key for believers to be fruitful in His work is to work while having fellowship with Him.

Jn. 15:5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without me ye can do nothing.**

- ❖ In doing His work, He invites believers to yoke up with Him – He carries the workload.

Mt. 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;** for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For **my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

- ❖ The ultimate purpose for the believer to be fruitful in the Lord's work is to glorify His Father.

Jn. 15:8 **Herein is my Father glorified,** that ye **bear much fruit;** so shall ye be my disciples.

- ❖ Believers are responsible to do obediently, by faith, the Lord's plan for fruitfulness.

Prov. 13:23 Much food *is in* the tillage of the poor: but **there is *that is destroyed* for want of judgment.**

- The potential harvest is available for all believers – “Much food...”
- The performance of the believer is critical – “...is in the tillage...”
- The believer must have the right spirit and attitude – “the poor committeth himself unto thee...”  
Psa. 10:14b.

- The difference between receiving rewards or suffering loss depends upon the believer's judgment – "...but **there is *that is* destroyed for want of judgment.**"

## Summary

- ❖ The Lord has a work for each believer to do, as He works **THROUGH** each one.
- ❖ Believers are to follow the Lord's leadership or else the labor is in vain.
- ❖ The Lord Jesus provides all that a believer needs in order to fulfill His work.

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things **through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

Phil. 4:19 But **my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- ❖ The believer is responsible to “trust and obey.”

## Conclusion

1 Thess. 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

3 Remembering without ceasing **your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;**



Heb. 6:9 But, **beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation,** though we thus speak.

10 For **God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love,** which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

11 And **we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:**

12 That ye **be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**