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GOD NOT CONFINED TO A BUILDING      1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chronicles 6:18      (Psalms 84:10; 122:1)

1. Solomon Builds a house for the Lord

1. His purpose in building that house. 2 Chronicles 2:6
2. It is a great house. Why a great house?
  1. Because our God is a great God above all Gods. 2 Chronicles 2:5
  2. It ~~was~~ a great house because of its intended simple religious uses.
    1. It was to be the place of sacrifice rather than a place for ease and entertainment. **2. Special house of prayer. 2 Chron. 6:20,21**
    3. It was to be a house where vast assemblies might in a special way direct their sacrificial worship to God; Not a house designed for vast assemblies and vast processions to use as a strutting ground before the Lord.

2. SOME THINGS SOLOMON KNEW. He knew:

1. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it:: Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Psalms 127:1-5

2. Four types of builders in (Psalms 127:1-5)

1. THE BUILDERS OF THE TEMPLE. Verse 1.

1. One of the deep sollicitudes of the returned exiles was to uprear again the temple of the Lord.
  1. They needed continually to remember that "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it..." Psalms 127:1
2. Lessons for us today:
  1. In gathering together the living stones which are to form the Church of the living God we need to remember this same truth.
  2. We must not in this day, or at any time in the future: rely on
    1. Rely on wealth, eloquence, learning, talent, or any other such thing.
    2. In this day, to build an holy, spiritual temple made up, put together, with living stones, we must rely upon the word of the living God as the norm for all of our spiritual building. Acts 4:5-12; 1 Peter 2:4-6.

2. THE BUILDERS OF THE CITY. Verse 1

1. No doubt Jerusalem is here had in mind but the principle obtains in the building of any city.
  1. The builders of cities all need to know how very much depends upon wise administration and rule.
  2. They need to know also how quick and eager corruption and vice are to assert their power. The history of municipalities asserts this.
  3. The city-builders need to remember too the truth of this Psalm. "Except the Lord..." Build the temple, Build the city, Build the business, Build the home! We SPEAK NEXT OF:

3. THE BUILDERS OF BUSINESS. Verse 2

- "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."
1. We speak of "our house," "our firm," "our farm." These are well know expressions among us today. Often we become so egoistical as to speak in the first person "I" all the time. Luke 12:13-21; James 4:15.
  2. How many succumb to the the hazards and temptations of big business: making more money only to leave the Lord out in the cold.
  3. How many succumb to these temptations and find themselves trying to keep one conscience for Sundays and quite another for weekdays!

4. BUILDERS OF THE HOME. Psalms 127:3-5      (Psalms 144:11-15)

1. People marry, and then begin the upbuilding of the home. Many parents work hard for, and count most precious to their children that which the Lord scarcely counts precious at all.
2. Many homes, Parents, provide well for thier children in secular advantages but fail completely to instill the grace of God into the thinking and lives of the children..
3. Arrows do not grow of themselves: they must be wrought out with much thought and care. Arrows do not aim themselves. The arrows will go where they are sent.

...house for the Lord  
...house, O Jerusalem 2:2

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CONSIDER SOLOMON'S TWO STATEMENTS

1. 2 Chronicles 2:6; 6: "And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods-5;....6-Who am I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him."
2. 2 Chronilce 6:18: "But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven and heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!
  1. In this last statement, do Solomon's words seem to negate the purpose of building the temple? NO:
    1. He was talking about the foolishness of man in trying to coop up the omnipresent God within the cubicles of man made shrines.
    2. Since God is omnipresent, everywhere at the same time, he cannot be confined within the walls of some ornate building whether that building be in Austin, Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas, Lubbock, or even in Nashville and Madison, Tennessee.
    3. Paul said in Athens, "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands." Acts 17:24
  - L. NOTE: These statements offer no consolation to the false position of some who claim to find God better outside the church.
3. SOLOMON KNEW THE POWER OF ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S PEOPLE.
  1. The writer of the Hebrew letter wrote of the necessity of such assembly when he said, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as we see the day approaching." Heb. 10:24,25
    1. Lovely flashes of insight may come to us when not assembled but they do not give sufficient light to live by, any more than flashes of lightening furnish adequate light for the motorist to drive by.
    2. High and low tides come to us, and in the handling of these we need the help of others.
      1. A worshipping soul in the house of God is lifted as a ship is lifted in the locks of a canal.
      2. Within the lock, not out of it, the ship is lifted to a higher level from which it sails away, better able to carry its cargo of personal and public responsibility.
      3. ~~Within the assembly, not out of it:~~
        1. We share the presence of fellow seekers which helps to make God more real to us.
        2. In the assembly we keep our love and affections alive between ourselves and others and also between ourselves and God.
        3. In the assembly we mingle with those of "like precious faith" while together we stretch out our souls in adoration to God who gave us life.
  3. SO SOLOMON KNEW WHY HE BUILT THE TEMPLE.
    1. This beautiful building that you have here at Northside today is not a means within itself as Solomon knew that the temple was not.
    2. This building should serve simply as a meeting place where the very atmosphere clears and the foothills of heaven become visible to the true worshipper of God.

To each is given a book of rules,  
A block of stone, and a bag of tools;  
And each must shape 'ere time is flown,  
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

...and the house which I built is great, for I have  
...and above all else... who are there, that I shall  
...have only to turn sacrifice before him."

"But will you do very good with men on the earth?  
...Heaven and the house and heaven cannot contain thee!  
...how much more this house which I have built!"

In this last statement, the Solomon's words seem to state the purpose of  
...building the temple:

1. To be a witness about the foolishness of man in trying to occupy the  
...uninhabited God within the walls of man-made shrines.

2. Since God is omnipresent, everywhere at the same time, he cannot be confined  
...within the walls of some ornate building whether made of gold or silver.

3. To be a witness, not only in Jerusalem, but in Babylon, Persia, Greece,  
...Rome, and all the other nations of the world, that the Lord is in the  
...heaven and earth, and that the Lord is in the world.

4. To be a witness, not only in the temple, but in the world, that the Lord is  
...in the world, and that the Lord is in the world.

5. To be a witness, not only in the temple, but in the world, that the Lord is  
...in the world, and that the Lord is in the world.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The writer of the Hebrew letter wrote of the necessity of our assembly when he  
...said, "Let us consider one another to provoke love and good works."

Regarding the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;  
...not according to the pattern which we have seen in the assembly.

1. Love: The purpose of the assembly is to be a witness of love to the world.  
...and to be a witness of love to the world.

2. Good works: The purpose of the assembly is to be a witness of good works to the world.  
...and to be a witness of good works to the world.

3. Fellowship: The purpose of the assembly is to be a witness of fellowship to the world.  
...and to be a witness of fellowship to the world.

4. Unity: The purpose of the assembly is to be a witness of unity to the world.  
...and to be a witness of unity to the world.

5. Witness: The purpose of the assembly is to be a witness to the world.  
...and to be a witness to the world.

6. Fellowship: The purpose of the assembly is to be a witness of fellowship to the world.  
...and to be a witness of fellowship to the world.

7. Unity: The purpose of the assembly is to be a witness of unity to the world.  
...and to be a witness of unity to the world.

8. Witness: The purpose of the assembly is to be a witness to the world.  
...and to be a witness to the world.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

1. This assembly is built for the purpose of love, and for the purpose of love.  
...and for the purpose of love.

2. This assembly is built for the purpose of good works, and for the purpose of good works.  
...and for the purpose of good works.

3. This assembly is built for the purpose of fellowship, and for the purpose of fellowship.  
...and for the purpose of fellowship.

4. This assembly is built for the purpose of unity, and for the purpose of unity.  
...and for the purpose of unity.

5. This assembly is built for the purpose of witness, and for the purpose of witness.  
...and for the purpose of witness.