

## Building with God's Word

**Introduction** Successful projects of great magnitude have two integral parts. First, a wise architect to create structural integrity, perfect function and eye-catching form. Second, a builder who will follow the blueprints without deviation. Whether it be a space shuttle, a skyscraper, massive bridge, a new computer large airplane, it will always be successful when the architect creates a perfect drawing using the laws of physics and the laws of chemistry to develop a stable and sound structure or device that will operate properly under even the most extreme circumstances. But the fellowship between the architect and building must be complete. The architect knows how create and expects the builder to trust him implicitly.

This is all God has ever wanted from His people. God is the great architect and designer. Everything He planned and built without our help was perfect and flawless in form and function (Gen. 1-2). God create man in His image and likeness to build with Him and share in His glory. But our image is but a tiny flame compared to His. We are not "His counselor!" He has never asked us for help. We must use **HIS** plans. **Those who add "special touches" are doomed to failure!**

*"For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 'Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?' 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. Rom 11:34-36*

We **MUST** trust God with all our heart and never lean on our own understanding (Pr. 3:5-7).

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. Prov 3:5-7*

We can only create a perfect life when we follow His plans exactly. **This is the fellowship of the architect and builder.** Just like God designed the ark and Noah built it to God's specifications.

*"Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did" Gen. 6:22*

When it was time to build God's tabernacle, this is what God warned Moses to do:

*"According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it" Ex. 25:9*

God sought a king "after his own heart" "who would do all my will" and so David ruled God's people well and harmony with God's plans. Saul on the other hand "forced himself to offer the burnt offering and "when the Lord sent you on a mission," "did not obey the commandment of the Lord." This led to a very important principle:

*"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king." 1Sam. 15:22-23*

We could paraphrase this today as

Does the Lord Jesus have as great a delight in our modifications that please us and appear to be more effective in our world than in obedience to His commands? Behold, to obey is better than all our wisdom and to heed is better than all our praise and adoration. Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as bad as blatant sin and bowing down to idols. Those who reject the words of Jesus will be rejected as being disciples.

When builders lean on their own understanding terrible failures arise. Nadab and Abihu, the ten spies, Korah, Saul and Jeroboam all ended in disaster by leaning on their own wisdom instead of trusting the architect, God. Have we learned from them?

When we trust God with all our heart and faithfully build with God's blueprints a wonderful working product results from this "perfect": fellowship. If we seek to "improve" or modify with some "new and wonderful" addition devised in our own heart it will always fail. First because it fails the first test of trust and obedience and second because no one is wise enough to improve on God's plan.

*how that **by revelation He made known to me the mystery** (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, **when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ**), ... this grace was given, that I **should preach** among the Gentiles **the unsearchable riches of Christ**, 9 and to make all see what is **the fellowship of the mystery**, which from **the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, Eph 3:3-4, 8-12*

What must these angelic "*principalities and powers*" think when they see us mar God's perfect blueprints drawn up and created in eternity? Since the writing of the NT, God has withdrawn just far enough to watch, but close enough to protect, answer prayer and providentially guide. Today is our turn to build. We can choose to build our life, family and church exactly as God designed it or we can modify His perfect plans. What is our goal? Do we seek to build as closely as possible, earnestly desiring to get it exactly as God planned? This was God's eternal purpose for man and those who do so will spend eternity with God in heaven and continue to build upon His flawless plans forever and ever!

There are several key concepts God established as absolutes. First, we must have full confidence in the blueprints: "ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND IS PROFITABLE..." (2Tim. 3:16).

Does this have our full confidence and trust? All 66 books of the Bible are the inspired blueprint. The old covenant for "*our learning and example that we might have hope*" (Rom. 15:4). The New Covenant to build on the rock by "*hearing his words and doing them*" (Mt. 7:22-27). Do we have full absolute and complete confidence in them?

Do we trust every word was written by the Spirit of God? As we read do we know we can understand it exactly as those who revealed it did. If we don't we are only building on sand! If we do we are building on solid rock

Do we have an unwavering confidence that God has protected his word by his mighty providence ever since it was written as he promised? Note the capitalized words below: Do they have our full confidence?

*Since you have purified your souls in **obeying the truth through the spirit...** having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through **the WORD OF GOD which LIVES AND ABIDES FOREVER**, 24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But **THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.**" Now **THIS IS THE WORD WHICH BY THE GOSPEL WAS PREACHED TO YOU.** (1Pet. 1:22-25).*

God promised His word was incorruptible and would abide forever and Jesus had full confidence in this truth. He used the tense of a verb to prove the resurrection (Mt. 22:29-33), and echoing Peter's words he affirmed:

*"Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law, till all things be accomplished" Mt. 5:18*

Jots and tittles are similar to the dotting of an "I" or the crossing of a "T." This is how carefully God preserves his word.

Scripture is as incorruptible as God! Grass withers but God's word abides forever. God cared for His word through the centuries, there should be no doubt in our mind the blueprints are still perfect.

This leads us to a very important decision. The writers were as confident as Jesus that it "**your word is truth** (Jn. 17:17), **once for all delivered to the saints** (Jude 3), and giving us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**(2Pet. 1:3).

There is no doubt we still have God's perfect blueprint. We possess the perfect pattern for life, marriage, family, morals, the church, doctrine, worship, salvation, and every spiritual thing. God himself is the architect and designer, and each of us can join him by building with his plans.

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. 2Tim. 2:15*

**Handled accurately** is a word meaning to cut a straight line or to lay down an accurate way. If this were literal, Timothy would get a level, a transit, and tape measure, carefully study the blueprints and lay it out exactly as God designed. This is precisely what God warned Moses to do with the tabernacle:

*Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain. Heb. 8:5*

Brethren we too have a pattern! There is no doubt about the accuracy of the blueprints or the wisdom of the Architect. The only decision is how closely we will build our lives to the pattern. Paul told Timothy the word of truth is the level, transit and measuring tape. We measure our thoughts, words and deeds by it. To avoid shame we must do it accurately.