

ENGAGING IN A CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT

GENESIS 11:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. Before the church was built, Jesus envisioned a church that would grow. (Matt. 13.31,32).
2. In the book of Acts, we see the end result of what Jesus envisioned. (Acts 2.41; 4.4; 5.14; 6.7; 9.31; 12.24; 16.5; 17.6)
3. Even God Himself is involved. (1 Cor. 3.6,7)
4. From the building of the tower of Babel, we can learn how to contribute to the growth of the church. (Gen. 11.1-9)

I. THE BABEL BUILDING PROJECT

- A. What did the people do in this building project?
 1. The city and the tower were located in the plain called Shinar located in modern day Iraq. (Gen. 11.1,2)
 2. The people wanted to build a tower that reached the heavens to make a name for themselves. (Gen. 11.3,4)
- B. What did God do in this building project?
 1. God confused their language so that they could not communicate with one another. (Gen. 11.7)
 2. God scattered the people across the earth. (Gen. 11.8,9)
- C. Why did God thwart their project?
 1. They were acting out of pride. (Gen. 11.4)
 2. Their will was not God's will. (Gen. 11.4; 8.15-19)

II. THE CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT

- A. Have a mind for the future.
 1. The people had plans for their future. (Gen. 11.1,2)
 2. If we want to build successfully, we must plan for the future. Evangelism? Eldership? (Matt. 28.19; Acts 1.8)
- B. Have a mind of enthusiasm.
 1. The people were excited about their plans. (Gen. 11.3,4)
 2. Are we "zealous" to build the church or is our attitude one of apathy? (Titus 2.14; Rev. 2.17; John 2.17)
- C. Have a mind of unity.
 1. The people had one language and speech. (Gen. 11.1,3,6)
 2. **LUKE 11.17:** "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation" (Col. 1.13; 1 Tim. 3.15)

CONCLUSION: Where will we be when we get to our destination?

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

June 13, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

OBEYING EVEN WHEN WE DON'T WANT TO

It is easy to do the things God wants us to do when we are already inclined to those things in the first place. If you are naturally forgiving, then it can be easier for you to let something go than it is for others. If you naturally have strong distaste for certain words, it will be easy for you to not use them. But there are also things that God requires of us that we many not want to do.

Think about Jonah. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach repentance to Israel's enemies (Jonah 1.1,2). What did Jonah do? He found a ship and sailed in the opposite direction. Jonah did not want to do what God told Him to do (Jonah 1.3). Yet he could not run away from God. God found him, and still expected him to preach to Nineveh (Jonah 3.1,2). I need to know that even those things that are hard or unpleasant, God still expects me to do them.

Think about Jesus. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed begging God to take away the cross (Matt. 26.39), Yet Jesus learned to submit His will to God's will (Heb. 5.7,8). I need to know that salvation is mine only if I submit myself to the will of God, even in those things I do not want to do (Heb. 5.9).

Obedience is a required part of remaining in a right relationship with God. We are saved by the grace of God (Eph. 2.8). But that grace is extended on the condition of our obedience (2 Thess. 1.8,9).

THE SIN THAT CANNOT BE FORGIVEN

MARK 3:22-30

INTRODUCTION:

1. We serve a God of grace through whom we have been gifted with forgiveness. (Eph. 2.8; Rom. 5.15; Eph.1.7)
2. Yet there is a sin from which we can never receive forgiveness.
 - a) **MARK 3.28:** “All sins will be forgiven the sons of men”
 - b) **MARK 3.29:** “but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness” (cf. Mark 3.6)

I. ONE PASSAGE

- A. There is an accusation.
 1. **MARK 3.22:** “And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebul,’” Lit. Lord of dung.
 2. **MARK 3.22:** “By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.” Jesus is operating under the authority of Satan.
- B. There is a confrontation.
 1. **MARK 3.23-27:** Jesus has something to say to them.
 2. **MARK 3.28-30:** Jesus has something to say about them.

II. TWO QUESTIONS

- A. What is the unpardonable sin?
 1. Jesus never used the word “unpardonable” but said, “never has forgiveness” (Mark 3.29,30)
 2. The sin of the scribes came from an evil heart. (Matt. 12.31-36). Not unforgivable, but unforgiven.
- B. Can I commit an unpardonable sin today?
 1. All sins can be forgiven. (1 John 1.7)
 2. To speak blasphemies against the Holy Spirit is to reject His message. (Acts 2.4; Eph. 3.5; Mark 16.20)
 3. As long as you reject the message from the Holy Spirit, you will never have forgiveness. (1 John 5.16,17)

III. THREE THOUGHT OF APPLICATION

- A. Forgiven because of the nature of God.
 1. **JONAH 4.2:** “You are a gracious and merciful God.”
 2. **PSALM 86.5:** “For You, Lord are...ready to forgive.”
- B. Forgiven because of the nature of forgiveness. (1 John 1.9)
- C. Forgiveness because of the nature of Jesus. (1 John 2.1)

CONCLUSION: Forgiveness can be yours if you are willing.

THE DEVIL IS OUR ENEMY

In Ephesians 6.11, I read that I am to “*put on the whole armor of God that you may have the ability, the power to stand your ground against the wiles of the devil.*” Our enemy is the devil. When you have those who have a different religious affiliation or who have a different moral standard than what the Bible says, it is the devil who is responsible. They are not my enemy, but have yielded to the enemy. The enemy himself is the devil.

In John 12.31, the devil is described as “*the ruler of this world.*” In John 14.30, the devil is described as “*the ruler of this world.*” In John 16.11, the devil is described as “*the ruler of this world.*” That is why I am told that “*friendship with the world is enmity of God. Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God*” (James 4.4).

When I am a friend to the world, then I am a friend of the one who is the ruler of this world, the devil. When I make myself a friend of the world and Satan, then I make myself an enemy of God. It is Satan who is in charge of all that is in the world. All that is in the world consists of three things: The lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2.15,16). Satan is the one behind it all. If I want to be involved with any of these three things, then I am aligning myself and giving allegiance to the one who is behind all of this, who is Satan. Thus I become an enemy of God.

If I am a child of God who positions myself as a friend of God, then I am going to abandon all that is in the world. I am going to abandon Satan who is going to become my enemy because he is the one behind it all. The devil is my enemy. I am not at war with other people, and I am not to fight with other people. I may fight against the principles, doctrines, and morality of other people, but I am not fighting them directly. I am fighting the devil because He is the enemy.

To fight against the devil is to fight against temptation. It is not a physical war but a spiritual war. It is Satan who puts the objects of our desire in front of us (John 1.14). In this spiritual war, I need spiritual weapons, and no greater weapon can anyone wield except the, sword of God which is the word of God (Eph. 6.17; 2 Cor. 10.4,5). The enemy is fierce and unrelenting. However, I can stand if I put on the spiritual armor of God (Eph. 6.11-13). CLP