**"EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE"**

**SCRIPTUR READING….*****[Psalms 127:1-2](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Psalms%20127.1-2%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)…..127 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.2It 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.***

***PRAYER***

***TITLE OF MESSAGE******…..*"EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE"**

***MEANING IF GOD IS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY OR ALL OF OUR ACTIONS AS CHILDREN OF GOD ALL OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN LIFE ARE WORTHLESS AND IN VAIN…..***

***Beloved, This New Year 2018 we need to re-focus and dedicate ourselves to our God and His Leadership, His actions, and His desires for His Church!!!!***

1. **There are things in life that most people desire... here’s a short list…..**

 a. A good successful healthy family life. Movie(Life Stinks”)

 b. Protection from violence, from within or without!! (Home invasions, drivebys, innocent shootings etc.

 c. Success in their labors, better position, better pay etc.

 d. Victory when there is war within and without!!

 e. Worship that pleases God always.

 f. A Church that flourishes and grows from year to year.

 **-- For these such things people expend much time and energy to attain.**

1. Yet what many Christians need to understand is that all our efforts alone will not ensure that we obtain such things...that we desire.

 a. Consider what is written in [**Ps 127:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ps%20127.1-2) **Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain…**

 b. The keynote is the word "vain" (mentioned three times)

 c. Solomon's theme is "that human efforts only succeed by divine intervention "

 **-- Not all labor succeeds; there is "the labor that in spite of all the work and efforts put into it, it is still non productive"** ***WHY ???***

[Let us examine this Psalm because In the Psalm, several examples are provided; then elsewhere in the Scriptures we have other examples where not all labor is successful or fruitful.

Let's first consider the examples in the Psalm, where it first makes mentions….

**I. IN OUR FAMILIES and Homes.**

 **A. GOOD HOMES ARE CERTAINLY DESIRABLE...by most people.**

 1. There are blessings to being part of a large family, I came from a large family. Being the Oldest of

 7 Siblings. There is also a responsibility attached especially if you are the oldest of the siblings..

 2. There is nothing wrong with desiring such……But,

 **B. GOOD HOMES REQUIRE GOD'S BLESSINGS...**

 1. In [**Ps 127:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ps%20127.1), the word **"house"** may refer to the temple, but the context suggests it refers to the

 home or family

 2. A large family is indeed a blessing from God - cf.

[**Ps 127:3-5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ps%20127.3-5)**3*Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.5Happy 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.***

 a. Not to imply that a small family or no family is a curse

 b. For there may be times when it is God's will that one be single or have a small family

.

[***1Co 7:7***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Co%207.7)***, 7For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.***

***1 Co 7:***[***32-35***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Co%207.32-35)***32But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:33But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.34There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.35And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction. Distractions, distractions, distractions.***

This is why many of our labors fail!! We are distracted by attractions!

1. Beloved, without God's involvement in any endeavor of labor or all our efforts will fail

 a. It is necessary that we invoke God's blessings in our efforts and include God in all our family

 endeavors!

 b. This also involves not putting family over God!

 [**Matt: 10:37**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2010.37)***; 37He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.***

[If we put family before God, then our labor regarding our family will ultimately fail!

***LISTEN…….…..*"EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE"THEY LABOR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT!!!**

The principle also applies...]

**II. IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT OURSELVES IN ORDER TO BE SECURE!**

 **A. PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE IS DESIRABLE...**

 1. Which is why cities had walls, with watchmen standing guard.

 2. Providing security is part of providing for one's family - cf.

[***1Ti 5:8***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Ti%205.8)***8But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.***

 **B. BUT BELOVED TRUE SECURITY REQUIRES GOD'S PROTECTION...**

1. Unless God is our guard, ALL our efforts to protect are totally vain –
2. I HAVE A TOTAL OF 9 SECURITY CAMERAS ALL AROUND AND INSIDE THE HOUSE.

[**Psa 127:1b**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Psa%20127.1b)**….. *except the Lord keep the city, the watchman watches but in vain.***

 2. While providing locked doors and security systems, don't leave out God! - cf.

[***Ps 121:1-8***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ps%20121.1-8)***I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.2My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.3He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.4Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.5The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.6The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.7The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.8The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.***

[Any labor to provide security without looking to God for help will fail. !!!!!!

Solomon then applies the principle…….

**III. IN ALL OUR WORK OR LABORS….**

1. **GOD EXPECT US TO WORK WITH OUR HANDS...**
2. To be in right standing toward those who are outside. People will notice when you are a hard working person or family!

[**1Th 4:11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Th%204.11)**,**[***12***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Th%204.12)***11And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;12That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.***

1. To provide for those less fortunate than us –

[***Ep 4:28***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%204.28)***28Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.***

1. **TRUE SUCCESS REQUIRES GOD'S FAVOR...**

 1. Despite efforts to work long and hard –

[***Ps 127:2***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ps%20127.2)***2It 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.***

 2. Our efforts will be little more than gathering and collecting for others –

[***Ec 2:26***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ec%202.26)***26For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.***

1. We must therefore not put our jobs before God! - cf.

[***Mt 6:33***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.33)***33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.***

[If we want to succeed in business (where we can enjoy the fruits of our

labor), then seek to succeed with God first! Otherwise our labor is in

vain.

Now let's see how the principle of this Psalm is applied elsewhere...]

**IV. IN OUR BATTLES**

 **A. WHEN WAR IS INEVITABLE, VICTORY IS DESIRABLE...**

 1. Especially when attacked by evil aggressors

 2. Governments therefore build armies and weapons to defend themselves.

1. **VICTORY DOES NOT DEPEND UPON MIGHT ALONE...**

 1. Preparation alone does not guarantee success in battle.

[***Pr 21:31***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Pr%2021.31)***31The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord.***

 2. Armies and weapons are not sufficient to ensure victory - cf.

 [***Ps 33:16-17***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ps%2033.16-17)***16There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.17An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.***

 3. We must also look to the Lord as our help and our shield - cf.

[***Ps 33:18-22***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ps%2033.18-22)***18Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;19To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.20Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he is our help and our shield.21For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.22Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.***

[Many greater nations have fallen in the day of battle because of their arrogance and pride. A nation cannot hope for victory unless God wills it. Now let's apply the principle to more spiritual themes...]

**V. IN OUR WORSHIP**

 **A. GOD DESIRES THAT WE WORSHIP HIM...but not every Christian worships the way they ought to.**

 1. As Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well –

[***Jn 4:23***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%204.23)***23But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.***

1. It is our duty that WE proclaim His praises most OFTEN . and here is the true reason…..

[***1Pe 2:9***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Pe%202.9)***9But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;***

1. **BUT NOT ALL WORSHIP IS ACCEPTABLE...**

 1. There is worship that is an abomination – UNTO GOD

[***Pr 15:8***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Pr%2015.8)***8The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.***

1. There is vain worship, based on commandments of men –

 [***Mt 15:9***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2015.9)***9But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.***

***As the scripture says………..*"EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE"**

[Such worship is labor that fails to please God.

Finally, consider the principle as it applies...]

**VI. IN OUR CONGREGATION 2018 must be the year where we acknowledge that God must be involved in all our actions, God must rule and direct all our motives, not necessarily any certain individual trying to dictate how church is to be run!**

 **A. WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO LABOR TOGETHER FOR THE LORD...**

 1. We must execute A labor that is not in vain in the eyes of our GOD!!!–

[***1Co 15:58***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Co%2015.58)***58Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.***

1. A labor that God will not forget –

[***He 6:10***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%206.10)***10For 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.***

1. **SUCCESS DOES NOT COME FROM LABOR ALONE...**

 1. God is the one who gives the increase –

[***1Co 3:6-7***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Co%203.6-7)***6I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.7So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.***

 2. Beloved, He is the source of any sufficiency that we may have .

[***2 Co 3:5***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Co%203.5)***5Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;***

 Here’s some food for thought……

1. While we work as though it depends on us, we must pray because it depends on God (for it does!)

***remember…..*"EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE"**

**CONCLUSION**

1. Whatever our endeavor (labor), it will fail unless God is involved...The question is…….

 a. Will we look to God to build our families?

 b. Will we look to God to deliver us from evil?

 c. Will we look to God to bless our work?

 d. Will we look to God as our shield and protector?

 e. Will we look to God to guide our worship of Him?

 f. Will we look to God to give us the increase in His Vineyard, the

 church?

2. Remember the words of **Solomon**...

 a. "Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build

 it;"

 b. "Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in

 vain."

 c. "It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the

 bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep."

To ensure that our labor not be in vain this year 2018, this prayer by **Moses** should be

our attitude:

 **"And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, And establish**

 **the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands."**

 **-** [**Ps 90:17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ps%2090.17)

Are you looking to God to establish you in all your labors...?

THIS YEAR 2018, MAY BE YOUR YEAR OF INCREASE, A YEAR WHERE OUR GOD WILL ESTABLISH THE WORK OF OUR HANDS, A YEAR WHERE WE WILL INVOKE THE NAME OF GOD IN ALL OUR ENDEAVORS, A YEAR THAT WILL PROMOTE US TO WORK FOR THE LORD AND HIS KINGDOM, A YEAR WHERE WE WILL BUILD STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN OUR CHURCH THAT THE CHURCH MAY BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD, LET US ALL BE OF ONE FAITH AS WE STRIVE TO LIVE QUIET AND PEACEABLE LIVES.

In closing….[***Psalms 127:1-2***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Psalms%20127.1-2)***…..127 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.2It 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.***

PASTOR CARLOS.