TITLE: Construction

TEXT: 1st Co. 6:19; Ps. 127:1; Gen. 3:17; 2nd Co. 5:17-21; 1st Pe. 2:4-5; Jn. 17:20-23

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to talk about construction. How many of you here this morning have ever took on the enterprise of building a new house?

 Either personally or maybe contracted someone else to build one for you or, if not an entire house, how about an addition on your existing house, or a new garage?

 If you have ever took on the task of building a house or having one built for you or you did a remodel or addition of an existing house then you have probably learned a principle of house building.….

 And that is you get what you pay for, or the quality of a house will be in proportion to the ability of the one who builds it.

 If I were to take on the task of building a house it will probably be of lesser quality then a house that someone who builds them for a living would be.

 Sure, I might be able to muddle my way through the process but I can guarantee you that there would be a lot of mistakes made along the way… and the house that I built would be of lesser quality than a house built by someone who is a expert house builder…..

 So, a good rule of thumb would be that if I am going to build a house and I want it to be the best possible house that I can make it, I am going to be better off to find someone who is an expert in the field, a carpenter, a craftsman, and let them build it for me, or at least have them guide and direct me through the process rather than to try to build it all on my own….

 This same principle applies to our spiritual lives..

**1Cor 6:19 (NIV) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?**

 (TLB) Haven't you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that he lives within you?

 When we receive Christ into our life, when we become a Christian, our bodies become a house, a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit of God to live.

 If we are a Christian then the question isn’t whether we are a house, a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit of God or not, because we are, but the question is what kind of a house, what kind of a dwelling place are we being for the Holy Spirit of God to live in?

 What kind of house have we built, what kind of house are we building for God to reside in?

 Are we putting Him up in the best possible house that we can provide or are we putting Him up in a shack, a dive, a not so good house? Are we a good landlord or are we more like a slumlord?

 The problem that we often run into in the building of our spiritual house is the same problem that we often encounter in this life in our other building projects….

 We would rather do it ourselves!

 I don’t know how many times I have tried to save money and got into a project that was way over my head and in the end it ended up costing me more than it would have if I just would have let someone do the job that was a expert in the field.

EXAMPLE: Plumbing---went to change a faucet and ended up having to change the pipe all the way down in the basement and it took me all day to do it. I am sure a plumber would have been able to do the same job in under an hour with better results.

 Or the time I went to take down an old chimney!

 I thought I knew what I was doing; I mean how hard can it be?

 I was working on a plaster covered chimney on the first floor of a two story house. I did look outside and saw that there was no chimney coming out the roof so I just started to remove the plaster and then tear down the bricks… A professional would most likely have went upstairs and looked in the closet above where I was working and seen the 8 foot section of chimney running through it that came down on my left arm causing a double compound fracture and a dozen surgery’s over the next 5 years.

 A few years ago I decided I would save a couple hundred bucks by doing some of my own tree trimming. Someone that actually knew how to do it later told me you always want to stay above the limb you are working on. I found out why the hard way ---while I was cutting at it from about 8 foot off the ground on a ladder and the 8” diameter limb I was cutting suddenly just broke out of the tress and ended up launching me another 6 foot into the air coming down on my right shoulder on the curbing breaking it in something like 13 pieces.

 Often, when we try to do things on our own that we really don’t know how to do we end up doing them in vein. Sometimes we can really make a mess for ourselves.

 The same thing is true in our spiritual lives…

 God never intended for us to build the spiritual house of our lives on our own.

 In speaking about building the spiritual house of our life Scripture has this advice for us…

**Psal 127:1 (NIV) Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.**

**Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.**

 I want to look at four words here that give tremendous insight into this passage of Scripture…

The first… vain

**07723 shav' {shawv} or shav {shav}**

**in the sense of desolating;**

**1) emptiness, vanity, falsehood**

**1a) nothingness**

**1b) emptiness of speech, lying**

**1c) worthlessness (of conduct)**

**Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain!** Their labor isempty, worthless, and desolate; it amounts to nothing of any eternal value or significance.

 What this tells us is that if we try to do it all on our own then we may get something built spiritually but it will be of little or no value to God.

 The only labor of our life that will be of any real value is the labor that we allow God to do within us.

 Which brings us to the second word that I want to look at today and that is Labor

**Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.**

**05998 `amal {aw-mal'}**

1. **to labour, toil**

It comes from the same Hebrew root that is used in:

**Gene 3:17 (NIV) To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, `You must not eat of it,'**

**"Cursed is the ground because of you;**

**through painful toil you will eat of it**

**all the days of your life.**

**Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.**

Unless the lord builds the house, its builders, that is you and I, labor, we toil in vain.

 You see God builds---we labor.

 Or…for God the work isn’t work. There is no painful toil involved. God just does what is natural for God to do.

 If we strive to do it ourselves, on our own, we labor with the process. It is hard for us. It is extremely difficult. To the point that it will often cause us pain.

 For God is it just what comes natural for Him to do.

Example: Expert builder, a craftsman builds a house and to him it is a lot less labor then if I try to do it myself. I will get frustrated when things don’t go right, I hit my finger with the hammer while trying to drive the nails straight and I get angry. When my walls end up untrue I get frustrated. I toil with my labor….. For me it is hard work.

 But to the master craftsman it is all second nature to him. He actually enjoys what he is doing. He doesn’t get frustrated because he knows what he is doing. He has a vision of the end result and knows how to achieve it. I may have the vision of what the end result should be but most often have no idea how to get there.

 God is the master craftsman when it comes to building or rebuilding lives that have fallen into the depredation of sin.

 We labor at the process but God simply builds.

 There is no toil involved for God. God just does what is completely natural for God to do. Create! Or recreate!

 After all isn’t that what God does and what He is by nature? He is the creator! The master craftsman of all master craftsmen!

And He never labors! He simple builds, he simply creates!

 Which leads us to the next word I want to look at this morning…

**Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.**

God builds!

**01129 banah {baw-naw'}**

**1) to build, rebuild, establish, cause to continue**

**1a2) to build a house (ie, establish a family)**

1b3) established (as of restored exiles) (God Restores)

**1b4) established (as making permanent)**

1b5) to be built up)

God not only creates and builds but He can recreate and restore!

 It is of this recreation and restoration ability of God that the Apostle Paul speaks of in:

**2Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

**18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:**

**19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.**

**20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.**

**21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

**All this is from God!**

God not only creates but He recreates He restores He can make us brand new.

 Actually it is often easier sometimes to build a new house then it is to remodel an old one.

 Example: In putting in a new back door we had to fit the new door to the old structure to make it fit…in a new house you would have simply built the house so that the door would fit…

 We had to make several adjustments, several alterations to the house to make the door fit…

 Our God knows how to remodel these old houses of our lives. Houses that may have had years of abuse. Houses that have been extremely cobbled up by years of our do it yourself repairs.

 Through Jesus Christ, through a life that is yielded and committed to Him, God can restore and remodel our lives, no matter how messed up they may be, so that they actually become new in Him! So they actually become a place that is fit for Him to live in!

**Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.**

 The Hebrew word used for house here is:

**01004 bayith {bah'-yith}**

**1a) house, dwelling, habitation**

**1b) shelter or abode**

**1c) human bodies (fig.)**

**4) home, house as containing a family**

**5a) those belonging to the same household**

**5b) family of descendants, descendants as an organized body.**

 **1Pet 2:4 (NIV) As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--**

5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

When we come to Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins and then allow Him to be the savior and Lord of our life we become like living stones that are being built into a spiritual house.

 Folks, we are being built into a dwelling place, a habitation for the Holy Spirit of God to live!

 We are being built into a spiritual house so that we can be a Holy priesthood that offers spiritual sacrifices to God with our new lives.

 The sole purpose for our becoming a spiritual house, our sole purpose for allowing God to make our life a fit place for Him to dwell, is so that we can become part of a Holy priesthood that offers spiritual sacrifices to Him!

 What is this Holy Priesthood that we are to become a part of? It is the Holy Priesthood of Jesus Christ!

 This is what Jesus was referring to when He said in:

**John 17:20 (NIV) "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,**

**21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

**22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:**

**23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.**

Folks this is our universal calling in Jesus Christ!

 This is our universal calling as a Christian!

 To become an active part of the priesthood of Jesus Christ by becoming one with the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit!

**…that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

 **I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.**

 A priest doesn’t live in a shack or a shanty but he lives in a temple. He resides in a place that is reserved for the worship of God.

 He lives in that place for the sole purpose of serving God.

 We, like living stones, are to be being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

 Spiritual sacrifices can only be made from a Holy Priesthood who is living in a Spiritual house.

 Or, The Holy Spirit can only operate in a spiritual house, a spiritual environment.

1 Peter 2:9But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

 The question that I pose this morning is; are we being the Holy Priesthood that God has called us to be?

 Is our life marked by spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable and pleasing to God?

 Are we providing a house, an abode for the Holy Spirit of God, not just to reside in, but to be made alive in?

 Are we allowing God to build for Himself a house with our life or are we still trying to build it ourselves

**Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.**

 Are we allowing God to be the builder of our house this morning? Making our life a place for Him to work out of in the world in which we live?

 Are we living our lives as a Holy Priest of Jesus Christ?

 Are we living our lives as a spiritual sacrifice that is pleasing and acceptable in His sight?

 **But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**