

# Built By the Lord

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# Introduction

- I. How important is your family? What would you do to help them? Anything? How about spiritually? Psalm 127:1-2; Matt. 7:24-27
- II. 5 Sections in this book: First Things, Family Goals, Family Roles, Habits of a God-Built House, and Our Family and God's Family
- III. This book is designed as a daily devotional and family discussion guide.
  - A. Each chapter has: Response, Point to Ponder → Meditation, Prayer, Exercises – Accountability Circle / Small Group → Discussion
  - B. We will have some difficult topics & difficult statements. My family is not perfect. We will be teaching the ideal or the goal... not what I have achieved.
- IV. Lessons from Psalm 127 – Context → Building the Temple
  - A. If we want the Lord to build our homes, we must invite Him to do so, 1 Chron. 29:10-19.
  - B. The design of God's temple was not left up to man. Solomon was to follow God's pattern, 1 Chron. 28:19.
  - C. Without God's involvement our work is in vain, Psalm 127:2.
    - 1. This Psalm does NOT teach that if we pray and read the Bible, God will do everything else and we do not need to work.
    - 2. Nehemiah rebuilding Jerusalem, Neh. 2:18; 4:6
  - D. It is easy to become distracted by the mundane and material issues of everyday life under the sun.
    - 1. When the Jews returned to Jerusalem from captivity, they almost immediately began to rebuild the House of the Lord. Their enemies discouraged them... building stopped.
    - 2. Haggai 1:1-8 – complacent → distracted → procrastinated the spiritual work
    - 3. Col. 3:2
  - E. Why did the Lord abandon them? Twice?
    - 1. Daniel 9:4-19 – The Lord abandoned them because the people abandoned Him.
    - 2. If we want the Lord to build and guard our home, we must always serve Him.
- V. Psalm 127 is the basis of this entire book. Allow these lessons from that chapter to be the compass for all you do in your family.

## Chapter 1 – God Created the Home

- I. In the Beginning...
  - A. Gen. 1:1, 1:27, 28
  - B. On the sixth day, God created all living creatures, and finally, man, Gen. 1:26-27. Gen. 2:7, 18-24 reviews this and describes man's creation more fully. But, still, man needed a companion, Gen. 2:21-24.

- C. Family → the first institution from God, i.e., NOT evolution, NOT some ancient society. The family is as old as mankind.
- D. Man is not the inventor of family. Man cannot define or govern how the family is to work. How God organized the family is most important. How various cultures have perverted the family is not our guide.
- E. 1 Cor. 11:3 – The head of the family is the husband and father. The ultimate head and shepherd of every family is God. He has the ultimate right to tell us what to do in our families. This is our anchor. Our anchor is not what we or society thinks or feels about the family.

## II. The Church and the Family.

- A. The family is very much like the church.
  - 1. God instituted the church on Pentecost, Acts 2.
  - 2. God established roles and offices within that body, Eph. 4:11.
  - 3. God established local congregations as Paul's missionary work demonstrated, Acts 14:23.
- B. In 1 Peter 5:1-2 Peter described elders as shepherds.
  - 1. Shepherds were, and are, NOT a rule unto themselves. They are under a Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.
  - 2. Matt. 28:18 – Jesus has all authority. See also, Eph. 1:22-23
  - 3. While the church has leaders, these leaders are subject to the true leader, Jesus Christ who subjected Himself to the Father, 1 Cor. 15:27.
- C. The real question is will we let God rule or follow our own lead?

## III. The Family Goal

- A. Jesus is our example, John 8:29.
- B. Functional vs. dysfunctional families
- C. A family is only functional when it pleases God.
- D. What if we stopped maintaining our house?

## IV. Unless the Lord Builds the House

- A. Title from Psalm 127:1 – Home's foundation is the Lord
- B. Matt. 7:24-27 – Wise family builds on the rock of Jesus' word.
- C. God blesses His beloved even in their sleep, Psalm 127:3.
- D. When we obey God, we are secure and blessed in ways we never imagined.
  - 1. This Psalm is like the Proverbs in that it provides a general truth, not an absolute statement. You will be able to think of people with awful situations.
  - 2. We might be tempted to think that if bad things happen to them this family is very ungodly. This is what happened with Job.
- E. Always, God's guidelines for the home are for our own benefit. Obedience to God brings eternal blessings.

## V. Today's Response – Make a commitment to study this material in order to help our family please God. Schedule a time for this help.

## VI. Point to ponder – Take a look at Psalm 127:2. What do you think that verse means? How does this verse apply to your family?

# Chapter 2 – God's Institution for Impacting the World

- I. Abraham's Family
  - A. God chose one family. Abraham → Isaac → Jacob → 12 Tribes
  - B. God protected this family from famine through Joseph → sold into slavery → prison → lifted to power
  - C. Jacob's family of 70 people (Ex. 1:5) grew into a nation of 603,550 men, 20 years old and upward (Num. 1:46).
  - D. Using the ten miraculous plagues God brought Israel out of Egypt and ultimately into His Promised Land.
  - E. This family became the family heritage of God's Son. This Son blessed the entire world, Gen. 12:3.
  - F. The family is the primary institution God has established to work His plans.
  - G. The church is a great teaching institution. Certainly, God expects His church to impact the world, being the pillar and support of the truth, 1 Tim. 3:15. The family is the primary unit through which God expects even the church to grow and accomplish its work.
  - H. God expects our families to be God-glorifying, God-honoring units that spread the borders of His Kingdom.
- II. Bible Families
  - A. Adam's family → How many times did God work through a family? God did not create a population, Gen. 1-2. God created a family.
  - B. Noah's family → God chose one family to preserve humanity in the ark, Gen. 8.
  - C. Aaron's family → God chose one family to be a priesthood and minister to Him and to administer His law.
  - D. In the rebellion against Moses, God punished the entire families of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, Num. 16:27-33.
  - E. When Achan kept back part of the spoil of Jericho and hid it under his tent, the Israelites stoned his entire family, Josh. 7:24-25.
  - F. Certainly, God also works through individuals as well.
  - G. God created our families for more than just wonderful relationships. Our families are working units that impact the world for His glory.
- III. The Impact of our Families
  - A. God has established families as working units to impact the world for His glory.
  - B. We don't usually think of how our families can impact the world. We consider how the world influences our family and we want to protect our family. We usually think of how we as individuals can influence others.
  - C. We think about our education and jobs in the world that can support our family.
  - D. God views our families as teams like Abraham, Gen. 18:19. While we are not "chosen" like Abraham we can have the same family mentality as Abraham.

- E. Our family is to be trained up in doing righteousness. We train our children so they might train their children and so on. Ideally, we would have a generational legacy of training up children to be servants of the Lord.
- F. In addition to a future what about our family's service right now? Gal. 6:10 Think about all the good your family can do for the people around us.
- G. Good deed opportunities are all around us.
- H. See what Paul told Timothy, 2 Tim. 2:2. If we should do this for others, how much more should we do this for our families?
- I. Consider the possibilities of God blessing the legacy of our families abundantly, Eph. 3:20.

IV. Today's response – Consider good deeds you and your family could do this week.

- V. Point to ponder – In Joshua 24:15, Joshua was able to confidently claim that his house would serve the Lord with him.
  - A. What kind of training made that statement possible?
  - B. What do you think you need to do in your family to be able to make a similar statement?

## Chapter 3

# Seek First God's Kingdom & Righteousness

- I. God's Kingdom and Righteousness
  - A. Verses that have nothing to do with family, but everything to do with the family.
    - 1. Matt. 6:33 – Seek first His kingdom.
    - 2. Luke 17:21 – "...the kingdom of God is within you."
      - a. John 18:36 – not a physical kingdom.
      - b. Seeking God's kingdom means seeking God's rule in our hearts, which is seeking the King's dominion in our lives.
    - 3. Phil. 3:8-9 – Seeking God's righteousness.
      - a. Faith is the conviction that God's way is the right way.
      - b. Faith is our guide, 2 Cor. 5:7.
      - c. Faith comes by hearing the Word, Rom. 10:17.
  - B. Our righteousness should exceed the scribes and Pharisees, Matt. 5:20.
    - 1. The Pharisees' righteousness was one of appearance and ritual, Matt. 23:23-28.
    - 2. Seeking first God's kingdom and righteousness is more than appearance and ritual.
    - 3. Our families must not take pride in appearance but in heart, 2 Cor. 5:12.
    - 4. Remember Psalm 127:1.
- II. SEEK God's Kingdom and Righteousness
  - A. Imagine being late for work, too busy to eat all day, immediately after work having to hurry to pick up the kids and take them to practice. When you finally

get back home, what is your first thought? FOOD!

- B. Psalm 42:1
- C. Seek God's kingdom and righteousness, i.e., we have not completed this journey. We continue to grow, progress, and improve.
- D. We continually look for God's kingdom and righteousness. Seeking is active purposeful, not passive, and accidental.

### III. Seek FIRST God's kingdom and righteousness

- A. Satan does not care if we seek God's kingdom and righteousness. He simply wants us to seek something else first.
  - 1. We do not just do 'spiritual things.'
  - 2. God wants to be in every aspect of our lives.
  - 3. God wants to be the Prime Mover in our lives.
- B. Imagine the Pharisees going out to say their loud morning prayers before going to devour the widows' houses, Matt. 23:14.
- C. Seeking God's kingdom is why we read our Bible, study it with our family, pray individually and together, work in the local congregation, go to work, love your wife, respect your husband, honor your parents, and raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- D. 2 Cor. 8:5 – the Macedonians first gave themselves to the Lord.

### IV. Don't Get Distracted

- A. Phil. 3:7-8 – Consider what Paul gave up to be a Christian.
- B. Phil. 3:11-14 – He knew those things would only distract him from accomplishing his goal.
- C. Matt. 6:31-32 – This is especially tough in the context of family.
  - 1. Are we not to care for our spouse? Our kids?
  - 2. 1 Tim. 5:8 – Yes, we do care for our families.
  - 3. Our primary motivation must never be about providing food and clothes, even for our children.

### V. And all these things will be added to you.

- A. When God is the prime mover in our lives, He will provide all those other things that we need. He knows our needs, Matt. 6:8.
- B. Matt. 7:11 – Our Father is the giver of good gifts.
- C. Psalm 127:2
- D. Don't get caught up in the world's rat race. Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness and He will bless you with all you need.

### VI. Today's Response – Consider Abraham's life, especially in view of Heb. 11:8-19.

How did Abraham seek first God's kingdom and righteousness and how did God bless him? What does this say about God's ability to bless you and your family when you seek first God's kingdom and righteousness?

### VII. Point to Ponder – If someone looked at your family, your priorities, how you spend your time and money, what would they believe you are seeking first?