

“1 ¶ «A Song of degrees for Solomon.» 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. 2 *It 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. 3 Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward. 4 As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth. 5 Happy *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.” (Ps 127:1-5)

This is the third sermon on this text in recent years at a baptism. First at Jacob Savage’s baptism, then at the baptism of Genevieve Smith. But this message is different from either of those. As I said at GG’s baptism, there is more than one sermon in a text.

## Introduction

The word house is figurative just as it is in the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus referred to those who build their house upon the sand. It stands for any human enterprise, a marriage, a family, a church, school, business, nation, etc. Those who build upon the sand are those who do not build on the words of Christ. “He that hears my words and does them,” Jesus said, “I will liken, or compare, to a person who builds his house upon the rock.” This is what we mean by a figurative expression; it means that something is compared to something else. A bed may be hard as a rock. Words may be smooth or cheap.

Here, we are talking about a family and children. The building of a family that is a joy to a people, to a church, to a nation, is one of the most worthy of the occupations of men and woman, and the world has been tremendously enriched by good and godly family. The Lord is showing us how that is to be done, and making special application to children in the family. We want to see three things about this: I. Every house itself is from the Lord; II. Success and Safety are from God alone; III. The Integrity of a House is from the Lord.

### I. The House is from the Lord vs. 1

A. There can be no house apart from the decree and purpose of God. Vs. 1.

B. The wise man builds upon a rock, as Jesus said.

1. The fact that he build must by the decree of God: Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Not only the precept, but the decree. If God does not will it, it will not be done. The labor will be in vain.
2. It is important then, that you seek the will of God for everything, every venture, that you do not resist the will of God.
3. Commit your work unto the Lord, and He will establish your thoughts.
  - a. Ps. 112:5-7 With Eph 5:15 Luke 6:35 “do good, lend, hoping for nothing in return.

- b. Not only in general, but in particular. Heb. 4:3. The rest or tranquility of faith. Ps. 127:2. This is true in so many things in life.
- c. There is no chance for the child of God; only providence and confidence: confidence in Christ. See Isaiah 30:15-21. “I will guide thee with mine eye.” This is faith.
- d. Not double minded for a double minded man is unstable in all his way; but not single minded in stubbornness and self will.
- e. Isaiah 50:5-11 read: our Lord Jesus
- f. John 17:4 He finished the work, God gave Him to do: finish the job.

## II. The Success and Safety Are from the Lord. vs. 1

### A. Not only the house, but the success of the House if from the Lord.

1. There are houses that the Lord permits, but does not give success to them Hundreds of vanished kingdoms in Europe alone. The success of the United States to this point is phenomenal: one of the oldest governments on earth. Government and boundaries change.
2. An abandoned house is a sad thing for me. There were no doubt hopes and dreams when the house was being built. Sometimes foundations are laid: My sisters new house. Shasta Christian School.
3. Count the cost: Luke 14:28-33

### B. Safety is from the Lord. The house, or the city, must be kept of God.

1. Ps 33:17 An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Pr 21:31 The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.
2. Pr 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety. Blessed are those who have wise men around them. Seasoned, not like the young advisers of Rehoboam. I Kings 12.

### C. We are to dwell under His wings: in His covenant: Financial: Emotional; preparation; Abuse; The watchmen will awaken in vain, if the Lord does not keep the city.

1. Ps 17:8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,
2. Ps 36:7 How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.
3. Ps 57:1 «To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.» Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.
4. Ps 61:4 I will abide in thy tabernacle forever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings.
5. Ps 63:7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.
6. Ps 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

## III. Integrity Is from the Lord

- A. Vs. 5: Speak with their enemies in the gate. Justified, they walk in integrity.

- B. Vs. 2. All self confidence is abandoned: all trust in human works. They work but do not trust in their work. He gives sleep. The rest of the just.
  - 1. Not to add anything; not to subtract anything.
  - 2. This house is a house of truth. Honesty. No lies, no deceit.
  - 3. Well regulated house, well administered. “Not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.”
- C. This righteousness grows in the peace and rest provided by God. He gives his beloved sleep. See James 3:13-18

#### Application

The application is in vs. 3,4

- 1. A heritage from the Lord. No child is the product of chance.
- 2. A reward. A gift from God. The reward of a godly house.
- 3. A strength. Arrows in the hand of a mighty man.
- 4. A disciple, they shall not be ashamed. This is why we baptize them. They are given to our homes and houses to bring up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The success of this depends only upon the Lord. “I baptize with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost.” Baptism goes before the Lord.

Amen. May God bless you.