

Build well message 2021

Introduction

Today is my farewell message to Bethel Assembly and Cedarview Community Church. We love you all and are seeking to see God do great things for you in the future just as He has done in the past.

Christ's work always stands solid. Today as we share about how we can build well for Him, He is always excited to build together with us for His kingdom sake. It is about what He wants, His desires and His goals for each and all of us.

Matthew 7:24 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Both acting and hearing are two critical elements necessary for us to be like and by which we are acknowledged by the Lord Jesus as being wise. How well we do these two things will indicate how strong our works stand up when Christ proves them for reward.

Jesus in this scripture comparison, referred to building on rock as working for Him and what He cares about. Christ's work is hard work. It takes consistency, sacrifice, determination, desire, and purpose. The results are long lasting as the work is built on rock (Him) and not on our own desires. Rock is hard to move. The foundations of the building are supposed to be on rock not sand. Sand in this comparison is referred to unwise building and implies doing things thru a shortcut or on poor motives, standards or passion. Sand is easy to level, easy to build on but also easy to move. It is unstable and can cause what we build to fall apart under pressure of the enemy. Jesus says here, that if we want to build for Him it must be on rock. On Him. Shortcuts won't do. Doing it our way won't work. Doing it half heartedly won't work either.

2 Timothy 2:15 [Full Chapter]

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of Truth.

If our work is half-hearted or done thru shortcuts, the building (work) won't last and if it is done this way it will not be of God. As Christians we need to build on Christ with Christ's desires, motives, strength, and standards. If we do that, we will build things that will last. The work we build in the house of God will last if done this way.

Jesus described His mission and purpose this way:

Luke 4:17-19 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Jesus saw many people in the multitudes that followed around to see what He would do as a spectacle, and many did not follow or commit to Him. Jesus said we love Him when we do what He says.

John 14:15

"If you love me, keep my commands.

Jesus showed us how He measures our commitment to Him by how we follow His commands.

To develop a spiritual depth, commitment, and maturity in Jesus as His followers means that we are **consistently** working on implementing the principles of faith in Jesus Christ in our lives. It means we are working for Him, seeking the lost, binding up the broken-hearted, helping the poor, doing the things Christ came to do. It is like being little Jesus's on this earth in such a way that others will see Jesus in us and glorify Him. If it means giving to the poor, then that's what we do. If it means showing mercy to those who don't deserve it, then that is what we do. If it means sharing our faith and testimony because the person doesn't know Jesus as their Saviour, then that is what we must do. If it means showing compassion to the broken-hearted or depressed, then that is what we must do. Many of these things were us before we came to Christ. Even believers need this

too. The whole matter of following Jesus as His children is to become like Him and do what He says. It of course will come more automatically as we become more like Him. We need to seek to do this to build solid works of God.

How can we possibly do this?

Jesus said

Luke 11:13

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 3:16

John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Luke 10:19

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

IT IS BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The power of the Holy Spirit is available to us all and must be engaged to see the full measure that Jesus wants us to be. It is separate from salvation and it is necessary to accomplish the goals Jesus has already set out for us all to do. It is the way that God can use us fully and how we can celebrate the greatest triumphs in Christ. It is also the pathway to see the lost become found through our works and our words. We need to thirst and desire to have this baptism so that the effectiveness of God's people can be the best and all God wants it to be.

Building on the rock means we engage all of this. It is all about building on what Christ has given to us to use and be. No short cuts are available.

Christ provides all these tools to us in the way He sets it out in the Word of God.

Building on rock vs sand spiritually

On Sand

This kind of building is the kind where decisions and efforts are made based on comfortableness or on how it may have been done for a long time. It can also include seeking a passive rather than active response to God's leading and prompting in our lives. Here the basis of sand building is one that has a default of doing only what is easy to do and without risk. It tends to make us lose our first love.

On Rock

This kind of building is the kind where decisions and efforts are made based solely on God's direction and what the prompting of the Holy Spirit is. It seeks to determine best timing for things to be started and it counts the cost to finish and to sustain the work started. It includes the kind of thinking that if God is asking us to do this, then we must not be afraid to include sacrifice for the sake of the gospel. It is not afraid to risk reputation or anything else. If God says do it, then we do it.

God wants us to build well and to build for Him works of righteousness that will make Him proud and give glory to Him. The church is His church, and we are His children called to be the expression of His heart, will and family. He seeks the best for it and seeks us to give our best too.

Conclusion

My prayer for you today is that the church will become all Jesus meant it to be and that it will impact the community in such a way as to light the way so that everyone will see how good Jesus is and want to come to Him. Each one of us who know Jesus as our Saviour are a part of the body of Christ. We need to commit to each other that no matter what happens, we will be unified in purpose and cause and seek to bring all Christians together and to desire to reach all the lost for Him. It is an active work, a holy work and the cause that is the apple of God's eye. There is no greater cause to live for. Having this kind of lifestyle will bring incredible hope, love, joy and peace to us all and in the world around us. Is that not awesome? I encourage us all to dedicate ourselves to Christ for this now. God bless you all. Amen.

P. s. It has been an amazing adventure for our family to build together with you all. Some highlights that we will take with us will include:

MIBC

Mid-week delta kids club

Delts kids club Sunday

Community involvement (vimy ridge memorial, Remembrance day prayers, Christmas caroling at St Marks Church, parades, singing/music/visiting in hospital, seniors weekly dates, walking around town as captain crispy cookie, Our family prayer walk up the island, Christmas plays and dinners, weekly potlucks, ladies special events, men's breakfasts, Nettie playing accordian outside daily thru 2020, etc.

May God bless you all in your endeavours as the Body of Christ on Haida Gwaii.

In His service

Pastor Wes, Heather and Nettie