

East Union Baptist Sermon Notes



4- Talk with the Architect (the Father) *Heb 3:3-4; 11:10*

The Duke of Gloucester, commenting at a luncheon meeting in London: 'A home-accident survey showed that 90 percent of accidents on staircases involved either the top or the bottom stair. This information was fed back into the computer to analyze how accidents could be reduced. The computer's answer: 'Remove the top and bottom stairs.'" Building, England

Now it does not take an architect nor a very good builder to realize that you can't take the bottom and top step out.

When men try to build their lives it is often like taking the top and bottom step out. Their decisions are sometimes irrational and at times self destructive.

May I suggest that to build our Christian life by God's blueprint that we need to consult and architect. If you would all in our analogy, the architect of which I speak is God the Father. Notice the following scriptures in Hebrews.

Heb 3:3-4 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. 4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.

Heb 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

There are some things about an architect that I suggest we can see that makes God the Father an excellent choice for us.

I- The Architect's Portfolio:

Many times architects will have a portfolio of jobs that they have designed and built that are their bragging rights.

Let us notice a couple of things about God and His portfolio.

We know that He handled the job of creation pretty well. ***Job 26:7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.*** The detail of the creation, from the heart of the tiny hummingbird that beats some 1200 beats a minute, to the massive elephant who uses its ears as a radiator to cool his massive bulk. God is the Master designer.

We also know that God build homes when He is allowed in. He is the one who designs the security system as well. ***Psa 127:1 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.***

Then there is the church designed by God. ***Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

So as you can see the Architect of our blueprint for a Christian life has a substantial portfolio.

II- The Architect draws the plans:

An Architect had a vision for the building that is needed. In our text we clearly see that God is the one who builds all things. We also see that Abraham understood that God had designed a home not of this realm.

Abraham experienced God as the Architect of the plan that unfolded to bless the whole of humanity. ***Genesis 22:17-18 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the***

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heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

God also has a plan for our lives. Certainly Abraham would not have come to the altar with his son without a clear directive from God. Our plan for our lives many times is not the same as God's.

Futile Renovations

London businessman Lindsay Clegg told the story of a warehouse property he was selling. The building had been empty for months and needed repairs. Vandals had damaged the doors, smashed the windows, and strewn trash around the interior.

As he showed a prospective buyer the property, Clegg took pains to say that he would replace the broken windows, bring in a crew to correct any structural damage, and clean out the garbage. 'Forget about the repairs,' the buyer said. 'When I buy this place, I'm going to build something completely different. I don't want the building; I want the site. Compared with the renovation God has in mind, our efforts to improve our own lives are as trivial as sweeping a warehouse slated for the wrecking ball. When we become God's, the old life is over (2 Cor. 5:17).

He makes all things new. All he wants is the site and the permission to build.
Ian L. Wilson, Source unknown

Let me ask a couple of questions. First, who is the one whose plan you are following? Have you surrendered your building site so that He can design it at His will?

III- The Architect Must Give Stamp of Approval.

Many times having the right stamp on a set of plans with the right numbers of the architect can make it possible to go forward with a project. This stamp is not haphazardly given out by an architect. He must certify that the plan is correct. God's stamp of approval is all over the plan of salvation. We call it grace.

I have often thought of the night that Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane. He was there in agony while those friends with Him fell asleep.

It says the builder of the house has more honor than the house. May I suggest that the plan of the Father as it unfolded was certified on this night.

Matthew 26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Matthew 26:42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

We have no record of the Father speaking to Christ but may I suggest by implication that God the Father was saying this is my plan...my plan from eternity past.

Also, we can see the events that unfolded on Calvary with the darkness in the middle of the day, the earthquakes and other things that were God giving his stamp of approval to the plan of salvation unfolding on the cross.

By the way He has no other plan...

IV- The Architect knows the best method for construction.

One of the purposes of an architect is to understand what method of

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construction is needed. He needs to know how to build strong for the dangers that are to come. Remember we have talked about the house build on the rock and then the one build on the sand. This was talking about the foundation being what was needed. An Architect knows to build a strong earthquake resistant building in California but to build that same building in the middle of Kansas where tornados are would be foolish.

God wants to design our lives to withstand the storms as well. He, as the Architect, knows how to build us up to make us strong.

Romans 5:3-4 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Imperial Hotel

Years ago, Frank Lloyd Wright was given the impossible task of building the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. No comparable construction job ever before had been undertaken. With patience he laid plans for the immense building in this land of earthquakes and terrible tremors. After carefully reviewing the situation, he found that eight feet below the surface of the ground lay a sixty-foot bed of soft mud. Why not float the great structure on this and in some way make it absorb the shock of the earthquake?

After four years of work, amid ridicule and jeers of skeptical onlookers, this most difficult building in the world was completed, and soon arrived the day which tested it completely. The worst earthquake in fifty-two years caused houses and buildings all around to tumble and fall in ruins. But the Imperial Hotel stood, because it was able to adjust itself

to the tremors of the earth. *A. Smith, in Resources, #2*

Beloved we are told in **Romans 8:28** **And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

We may not understand as God unfold the things that come across our path but may I say we can trust God knows how to build our character and faith.

We need to understand that while we would not want things that come we often look back at them and see the purposes. We need to see the big picture.

The Cathedral

The noted English architect Sir Christopher Wren was supervising the construction of a magnificent cathedral in London. A journalist thought it would be interesting to interview some of the workers, so he chose three and asked them this question, "What are you doing?"

The first replied, "I'm cutting stone for 10 shillings a day."

The next answered, "I'm putting in 10 hours a day on this job."

But the third said, "I'm helping Sir Christopher Wren construct one of London's greatest cathedrals."

Source unknown

God is working on us to make us like Christ. He need to see the big picture.

V- The Architect sees the final building before it is complete.

May I suggest that God does not look at us a see what we are but what we can become. Christ called Peter the rock, not that he was at the time, but for what he would become. **Joh 1:42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt**

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be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

Famous People I

1. The memo from the testing director of MGM, shortly after Fred Astaire's first screen test, read: 'Can't act! Slightly bald! Can dance a little!'
 2. An older 'expert' once said of another younger coach, 'He possesses minimal football knowledge. Lacks motivation.' In case you're wondering, he was referring to Vince Lombardi.
 - ...
 4. Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper editor for 'lack of ideas.'
 5. Thomas Edison's teachers gave up on him. 'He's too stupid to do anything,' was their evaluation.
 6. Before he succeeded, Henry Ford failed and went broke *five* times.
- Charles Swindoll, Kindred Spirit, Vol. 22, No. 3, Autumn, 1998, p. 3.*

Beloved God see what we can become like an Architect can view a building he is creating in him mind.

The Bridge

During WWII General McArthur asked an engineer how long it would take to build a bridge across a certain river. 'About three days.' The engineer was told to go ahead and draw up the plans. Three days later McArthur asked for the plans. The engineer seemed surprised. 'Oh, the bridge is ready. You can cross it now. If you want plans, you'll have to wait a little longer, we haven't finished those yet.'

Source unknown

While we are waiting for the plans many times God is already building us for His purpose.

As we conclude this session allow me to encourage us to talk with the Architect of our lives and submit to His working on us.

Good Enough

I think that many of us, when Christ has enabled us to overcome one or two sins that were an obvious nuisance, are inclined to feel (though we do not put it into words) that we are now good enough. He has done all we wanted him to do, and we should be obliged if he would leave us alone. But the question is not what we intended ourselves to be, but what he intended us to be when he made us... Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what he is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on. You knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised.

But presently he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is he up to? The explanation is that he is building quite a different house from the one you thought of, throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage, but he is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it himself. - C. S. Lewis

Source unknown

Do you need to talk with the Architect today?