

LIKE EVERYTHING IN LIFE, UNDERSTANDING THE CHRISTIAN WALK REQUIRES A BALANCED APPROACH. I RECEIVE GREAT COMFORT FROM POSITIONAL TRUTH. MY POSITION IN CHRIST MEANS I CANNOT LOSE MY SALVATION NO MATTER WHAT SIN I COMMIT. IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT GOD'S SALVATION IS GREATER THAN ANY "SCREW-UP" I CAN GET MYSELF INTO. IT WOULD BE THE HEIGHT OF ARROGANCE TO THINK THAT I COULD DREAM UP SOME SIN OR LIFE-STYLE THAT WOULD FOREVER PLACE ME BEYOND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD AND HIS REDEMPITIVE WORK IN MY BEHALF. **ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED!**

To live the life-style of the sinner after believing in Christ places the believer in the hands of an angry God. Heb 10:31

HOWEVER, WE SHOULD LOOK INTO THE GOSPELS AND NOTE THE SERIOUSNESS OF TAKING A CASUAL ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST ONCE WE ARE SAVED! JESUS HAS HARSH WORDS FOR THE BELIEVER WHO FLIRTS WITH HIS SIN NATURE OR WANDERS IN THE CAMP OF SATAN! TO LIVE THE LIFE-STYLE OF THE SINNER AFTER BELIEVING IN CHRIST PLACES THE BELIEVER IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD¹!

SOLOMON AND HIS SON REHOBOAM HAD "BLOWN IT." BUT IN SPITE OF THEIR WICKED LIFESTYLE THE LORD STILL OFFERED GRACE AND MERCY TO THEM². GOD NEVER ALLOWS HIS CHILDREN TO GO UNDISCIPLINED IF THEY ARE "MISBEHAVING³."

THESE TWO CHAPTERS, 8 AND 9 SHOULD HAVE SERVED BOTH SOLOMON AND HIS SON NOTICE THAT LADY WISDOM WAS OFFERING A LIFE OF PROTECTION AND FULFILLMENT, BUT ADULTERY WITH THEIR LUSTS WOULD RESULT IN TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES. IN THEIR REBELLION THEY CHOSE THE ADULTEROUS WOMAN AND SUFFERED UNDER THE LORD'S HEAVY HAND. **THE CALL GOES OUT TO ALL BELIEVERS TODAY TO PURSUE WISDOM (CHRIST) WITH ALL THEIR HEARTS OR FACE THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD.**

LAST WEEK WE LEARNED ABOUT OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BUILD OUR LIVES WITH CHRIST. WE LEARNED THAT THE DECISION WAS OURS - THAT IF WE WERE TO TRY TO LIVE APART FROM A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST WE COULD ONLY TEAR DOWN OUR LIVES. **JESUS CHRIST AND HIS WISDOM MUST HAVE PRE-EMINENCE IN OUR LIVES.**

Eph 4:11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

IF WE ALLOW JESUS INTO EVERY AREA OF OUR LIVES HE WILL BUILD AN EDIFICE, A TEMPLE THAT WILL BRING GLORY TO THE LORD. PROSPERITY IN THIS LIFE IS A SIDE ISSUE THAT WE ARE NOT TO BE CONCERNED WITH - ONLY SEEKING THE LORD AND HIS

¹ Somehow Fundamentalists have gotten the idea (perhaps from a distortion of Positional Truth) that casual Christianity is an option for the believer. None of the apostles nor Christ himself allowed for such a choice - not without incurring the wrath of our Heavenly Father. Hebrews 10:31 **"It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."** (Niv) This was written to believers who were considering going back to legalistic Judaism to avoid persecution by Rome (read Heb 10:24-38).

² 1 Kings 11:9-13; 2 Chron 12:5-12

³ Prov 3:11, 12

RIGHTEOUSNESS⁴. JESUS HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE NEED TO BUILD OUR LIVES - WE NEED TO CHOOSE HIM AND THE GRACE HE OFFERS. THIS TEXT IN EPHESIANS HAS A CORPORATE EMPHASIS, YET THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY IS OBVIOUS.

THE BUILDING UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST HAS BOTH A CORPORATE AND AN INDIVIDUAL SENSE. MANY LOCAL CHURCHES THINK OF "GROWTH" IN TERMS OF INCREASING THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH. OTHERS THINK IN TERMS OF THE EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH. PAUL'S EMPHASIS IS THAT OF BUILDING THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS GROWTH INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST.

WE ARE ABOUT TO SEE THAT SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS BASED ON RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD AND HIS WORD. WE OPEN CHAPTER 9 WITH THE LORD EXTENDING THE CALL TO ALL BELIEVERS. IN HIS HAND HE HOLDS A BLUEPRINT - THAT OF A TEMPLE. THAT TEMPLE IS THE BELIEVER'S POTENTIAL IN CHRIST.

LET'S RESUME OUR STUDY OF PROVERBS 8, 9, PICKING IT UP IN THE 9'TH CHAPTER.

BUILDING GOD'S TEMPLE IN YOUR NEW LIFE

Prov 9:1 Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars.
2 She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table.
3 She has sent out her maids, and she calls from the highest point of the city.
4 "Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment.
5 "Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed. 6 Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding.

THIS IS A REFERENCE TO THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD. DAVID SPOKE OF REFUGE IN THE SANCTUARY OF THE LORD⁵. FOR THE BELIEVER TODAY THE TEMPLE IS HIS NEW LIFE - FILLED WITH THE PRESENCE AND THE WORD OF THE LORD.

THE MAJOR SUBJECT OF **1 COR 3:10-17** IS THE MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL. PLEASE DON'T MISS THE MINOR SUBJECT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN BUILDING ONE'S OWN LIFE ON THE FOUNDATION OF JESUS CHRIST! PAUL HAD TO DEAL WITH TWO PROBLEMS IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH; THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH WERE PRACTICING PARTISANSHIP⁶ AND AS INDIVIDUALS THE CORINTHIANS WERE NOT BUILDING THEIR LIVES ON JESUS CHRIST, BUT RATHER, WERE ALLOWING A TEARING DOWN OF THE WORK OF CHRIST - THE BUILDING OF GOD'S TEMPLE - THEIR PERSONAL LIVES IN CHRIST WAS BEING TORN DOWN. PLEASE PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT VERSE 14 REFERS NOT ONLY TO THE MINISTRY BUT TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S OWN LIFE IN CHRIST!

BACK TO PROVERBS 9:1-6. LADY WISDOM OFFERS GOD'S TEMPLE TO THE BELIEVER. THE TEMPLE IS NOT SOME STONE EDIFICE BUT THE BELIEVER'S OWN POTENTIAL IN CHRIST! JESUS CHRIST OFFERS, THROUGH HIS WORD, THE BELIEVER A BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE (LIFE IN CHRIST) WHEREIN HE CAN DWELL IN SAFETY, PROVISION AND UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS.

Eph 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

**Lady Wisdom's call is to the Simple.
That's you and me without a daily
walk with Jesus Christ - in His Word!**

HERE'S AN IMPORTANT POINT THAT LADY WISDOM MAKES IN 9:4. LADY WISDOM'S CALL IS TO THE SIMPLE. THAT'S YOU AND ME WITHOUT A DAILY WALK WITH JESUS CHRIST - IN HIS WORD! THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A DAILY IN-DEPTH STUDY OF HIS WORD.

LET'S NOT FORGET APPLICATION OF HIS WORD IN OUR LIVES! PRAYER AND COMMUNION WITH THE LORD IS ESSENTIAL. THIS IS WHERE SOLOMON AND HIS SON REHOBOAM FAILED. ALONG WITH THE REFINED LIFE OF THE COURT CAME THE IDOLATRY. WITHOUT LADY WISDOM BUILDING UP THEIR LIVES IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT THEY WOULD TEAR THEIR LIVES DOWN. IT IS THE SAME WITH THE CASUAL CHRISTIAN. HE THINKS HIS REFINED LIFE-STYLE IS AN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR WHAT

⁴ Matthew 6:33 **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

⁵ Psalm 27:4-8

⁶ 1 Cor 3:3, 4

LADY WISDOM IS CALLING HIM INTO - BUILDING HIS LIFE ON THE FOUNDATION OF JESUS CHRIST. THE CASUAL CHRISTIAN HAS HIS OWN BRAND OF IDOLATRY.

THE CALL OF WISDOM MEANS TOTAL COMMITMENT
WITH GREAT REWARD

6 Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding.

NO LONGER CAN THE CHRISTIAN SAY "I'M LIVING A GOOD LIFE, I BELONG TO A GOOD CHURCH. THE LORD IS SATISFIED WITH ME." THE CALL IS CLEAR - LEAVE THE MERE MORAL LIFE AND WALK WITH THE LORD AND HIS WORD. HE WILL BUILD YOU IN HIS LIKENESS.

Eph 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

LIFE IN CHRIST IS A SUPERNATURAL LIFE. JESUS WILL NOT ACCEPT ANYTHING ELSE. LADY WISDOM (JESUS CHRIST AND HIS WORD) OFFERS THE FOUNDATION, THE BUILDING MATERIALS AND THE SKILL TO BUILD YOURS AND MY LIFE. "...WALK IN THE WAY OF UNDERSTANDING."