

Building, Not Blessing

I have observed over many years that believers are looking for what they can get from church organisations and from church meetings. To that extent, many want to 'feel good' through their association with church groups. They chase feel-good messages and feel-good conferences and feel-good fellowships.

Paul conflicts with this attitude by stating:

1 Corinthians 14:26d (NKJV) – “*Let all things be done for edification.*”

Many appear to think that 'edification' means to make them feel good. Even those who know that edification means to 'build up' equate building up with building their self-esteem and self-worth. Not so.

NT 'edify' is from *oikodomē* (Gk) meaning: 'to build', 'to build up', 'a building', 'an edifice', 'build a structure'. Remember the Body of Christ? It's a structure. Metaphorically, ***oikodomē means to promote another believer's growth in piety, wisdom, happiness and holiness.***

Terry Bennett was warned about wanting to bless people all the time and to become a builder:

“God really, over the past some years now, directing my heart on how to really help the Body of Christ, how to really help the Body of Christ. A basic way of saying that is that I had to make a journey and I had to be willing. And the Lord asked me if I was willing, and I had to make a journey from a blessing ministry to a building ministry. It has come to my attention – and I am sure it has yours – that blessing will only carry us so far. God only will get what he wants, however; when we are builded together, to become a holy dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Blessing may get our attention, but building will make us to become a habitation. Blessing may bless us, but sooner or later we will get delivered from ourselves enough to realise that there's something more strategic and important than how I feel. Are you with me? Something more important than just the ministry that makes people feel good.

The true ministry doesn't begin with our concern for people. True ministry begins with God's great burden, what it is that he wants, and I might add, must have. He must have it. I'm saying that as a human, he must have what he wants. I could not care less if I get what I want. I could not care less if you get what you want. If it's not Jesus, I hope you don't. Sorry, I'm not trying to be mean, I'm just trying to be straightforward. It's Christ that is our reward, not what he does for me, even though I am thankful.

My point is this, though. The burden of the Lord has to be something that is recovered in his Body. It's been missing now for quite some time – God is in a recovery mode of that reality. The burden of the Lord is going to be based around the need for a people to be builded according to God's eternal, thus original, thought and intent. Nothing being random with God, God is never random. The Church may be random. In a fight, randomness will get you killed 'cause you'll be shooting in all directions instead of at the target...

Randomness is in the Body of Christ to such an extent...“And what do you mean by randomness?” I mean every man doing what's right in his own eyes when it comes to God's House, to God's people. That's randomness. That every element is equally important – that's random and randomness. That's not true.”¹

¹ – Transcript extracted from: Terry Bennett (17-9-2017) “The Burden and the Mission” session 1 (soundcloud.com/terrybennettministries/the-burden-the-mission-1-terry-bennett)

NOTE: “The burden of the Lord” is not to get everybody saved. His burden is the thing that's on his heart right now that's important – i.e. What he's focussed on now. **One burden he always has is to have his will done on Earth.**

Laurence

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