

*Psalms 127:1 "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..."*

God has never sanctioned the creation of an institution in which He failed to give instructions concerning how that institution was to function or be built. God created the institution of marriage and He gives instructions in His word on how to make a marriage work. Failures in marriage are not a result of lack of instructions from God, they are the result of lack of following the instructions that God has provided. God created the principle of civil government. We would do well to study the portions of the civil law (dealing with one another's affairs) in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Romans 13 and I Peter 2. God gives instructions for the functioning of civil government and in order for a society to be successful, the civil laws of that society should be modeled after God's civil laws. As in the example of marriage and civil law, God created the houses that we read about in scripture. There are three different types of houses that I would like to call attention to in this writing. Scripture mentions our house in which we dwell in and rest daily, His church or worship house and our eternal house (mansion) in heaven. Each one of those houses are homes in which we depend on God's grace to build.

### **1. Our Earthly Dwelling Place**

Many of us go home each evening to a place that we consider our home. God instructs women to be guiders of this home (I Timothy 5:14) and keepers at this home (Titus 2:5). Scripture says that a "wise woman buildeth her house.." (Proverbs 14:1). While some may be confused as to how scripture can tell us that the Lord is the builder of the house (Psalms 27:1) and yet tell the woman to build her house (Proverbs 14:1), we should be able to clearly see that God is teaching that a woman should build her house in accordance with the Lord's direction and plan. Failure to do this will certainly result in a home built in vain. Many of the societal problems that are witnessed every day are attributed to the failure of parents to build their home God's way. God's way doesn't make reference to the bricks, mortar, windows and siding. The way to build a home according to the Lord is for Father's to bring up "children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4) and love their wives as "Christ also loved the church..." (Ephesians 5:25). Wives should be "submissive unto" (Ephesians 5:22) and "...in subjection unto.." (I Peter 3:6) their husbands. I believe that as mothers and fathers take on the roles that scripture give them within their earthly dwelling places that children will follow their lead (Proverbs 22:6) and "obey" their parents as scripture teaches them to do (Ephesians 6:1 and Colossians 3:20). I pray that God give us as His saints the grace needed to build our houses according to His plan.

### **2. Our Church House**

God's word tells us in Matthew 16:18 that Christ built his Church. He also tells us in that same verse of scripture that this church will always exist because "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." As much as satan would love to close the doors of the Lord's church, we can find comfort in knowing that God, by His providence, will always secure faith on earth until he returns (Ephesians 3:21). The Lord built His church, which is also called the "**house** of God" in I Timothy 3:15, upon His name and the truth of what He did for His people. This "ground and pillar of the truth" is the same place where you can find the "true worshippers" worshipping in "in spirit and in truth..." (John 4:23). The same church that God built continues today amongst the Old Baptists. I pray we continue to build our relationship with Him and grow in our grace and knowledge of Him based on doing things His way. It is His house and He governs the way in which it should function. Many today who profess a belief in Jesus Christ as their saviour don't go in the Lord's direction. They have decided to build their own way and continue in their own path, while hoping to maintain the name of the One who's ways are perfect (Isaiah 4:1).

### **3. Our Heavenly Home**

Scripture teaches us of a place that God's children will live forever with Him (John 14:2-3, I Thessalonians 4:17). In order to be blessed by living in our earthly dwelling place, it takes effort from all of the inhabitants of the home to make God's way work. The church house, although a place of rest from worldly toils and labours, must contain labouring saints working to perfect their walk with their heavenly Father (Luke 16:16). This eternal, heavenly home differs from the other two in that God doesn't require us to labor in order to dwell within it. This house is given to us as a free gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is not one that is given to us because of our willingness to do things God's way, it is given to us in spite of our corrupt nature which kept us from doing things God's way (I Peter 2:25). Our eternal heavenly home also differs from the other two because the other two are only temporary. Our heavenly home will be a place where we will dwell forever. This house is one that God has built and chosen the occupants of (Ephesians 1:3-4). There are many people today who would teach that they are populating this heavenly home. But they would do well to realize that God has built this house and they are labouring "in vain" to try to build it themselves.

We serve a marvellous Saviour. God would have been just as holy and righteous if He never created any of these houses. But praise God that He gave us these places to dwell in. Praise God that he gave us knowledge of the functions and creation of these houses. Praise God most of all that all these houses have a foundation upon Jesus Christ and Him alone. Man can't build these houses. They must be secured, anchored and blessed by One who is much stronger than mortal man (Matthew 7:24, Ephesians 2:19-20 and Psalms 62:6).

In hope,

Elder Will Martin

### **Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church Announcements**

1. If anyone is hoping to visit with Macedonia Church, please note that we are no longer meeting at the church located on Highway 20 in Cartersville. The Lord blessed us to sell the old building and since the 4th Sunday in July we have been meeting at a remodeled building on Brother Lloyd and Sister Angie Taylor's property. Thanks be to our Lord for them remodeling and opening up the building for our use. The address for the new meeting place is: 76 Star Dust Trail SE, Cartersville, GA 30120. Please contact me at 770-891-2434 or Brother Lloyd's home at 770-386-3213 if you need directions prior to visiting. This will be our meeting place until the Lord blesses us to complete construction on our new church located in Pine Log Community in northern Bartow County, GA.
2. This Sunday we will observe communion at Macedonia Church. Sister Claire Taylor is also scheduled to be baptized this Sunday. She came forward last Sunday requesting a home with Macedonia. Please be in prayer for a Spirit filled day in the Lord.
3. Sister Polly Dabbs, a longtime member of Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, passed away at 6:30 A.M. on 8-31-11. We will miss getting to visit with Sister Polly but we are comforted by our hope that she is heaven with our Lord.
4. Sister Tonya Dugger, member of Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, is engaged to be married to Brother Luke Taylor. Our prayers are with them as they make preparations for their wedding and their life together.