

## **THINGS AT BABEL THE CHURCH NEEDS** **(Genesis 11:1-9)**

### **I. The people had a vision.**

- A. These people, as they imagined their building, were looking to the future and what people would think years later.
- B. The Lord's church needs vision as well.
- C. The Lord Himself had it - Matthew 28:18-20.
  - 1. Jesus wanted the gospel spread out over the world.
  - 2. He gave the apostles a plan for accomplishing His vision - Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the rest of the world.
  - 3. His vision came to pass (Colossians 1:23) and is still being carried out today.
- D. Each congregation needs elders and leaders with vision.
  - 1. What are we doing to help the Lord's church here in the coming years?
  - 2. We need to think about things in terms of 5-, 10-year plans and what will happen because of the plans.
- E. The worst thing Christians can do is make a decision with no thought given to the future.
  - 1. Every program we have should be considered in light of saving souls and how that can be accomplished through the program under consideration.
  - 2. Our benevolence, tape, correspondence course, Thursday meals, Christians In Action programs all should be in place with thoughts of the future in mind.
- F. We also need vision when it comes to doctrinal decisions.
  - 1. If "decision A" is made, where will it lead to in the future?
  - 2. Will it lead us one step from error or are there ten steps after this one before we are in error?
  - 3. Just because there is the possibility of error in the future does not mean that the decision is not a good one, but it does need to be given great thought.
  - 4. A lot of things that we do can lead to error if it is allowed and that is why God has elderships in place to think of the future consequences and keep a reign on things.

### **II. The people had a unity of purpose.**

- A. The world's inhabitants were united in a common purpose.
  - 1. This, apparently, was something that was agreed upon by them as a whole.
  - 2. They worked hard together to make those bricks and begin the work on the tower.
- B. Christians need to be united with a common purpose - to glorify God by doing His will.
  - 1. This needs to be our only thought when working in the Lord's kingdom.
  - 2. The Lord prayed for unity the night before His death.

3. His desire is for us to be as united as He and the Father are united (John 17:21).
- C. Notice that I said the Lord's kingdom.
  1. This is not Ben's kingdom.
  2. This is not your kingdom.
  3. Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23).
  4. We must never make the mistake of thinking we are greater than the church, yet this mistake is made everywhere.
- D. At Babel, this was the people's tower and they were all in it together.
- E. In the Lord's church, it His church and He wants all of us to be working together for Him.
  1. The people at Babel were seeking earthly fame.
  2. The Lord wants us to seek heavenly fame.
  3. The only way this is accomplished is through doing the will of heaven.
- F. There are lost souls out there and we are the only means of winning them to Christ.
  1. We must work together in the greatest cause the world has ever known.
  2. That goes for the brotherhood as well as individual congregations.
- G. West Walker, to be pleasing to God, must be united (Amos 3:3).
  1. Our elders must be united.
  2. The membership must be united with the eldership and each other.
- H. God saw that the people at Babel could accomplish their goal because they were united and Christians can accomplish their goal of glorifying God if they are united.

### **III. The people had a mind to work.**

- A. These people set about the difficult task of making bricks.
  1. They burned their bricks to make them stone.
    - a. This was not how brick was usually made.
    - b. Most were made from clay hardened in the sun.
    - c. These people burned them to make them harder which was more work for them.
  2. They wanted their work to last.
- B. The Lord's church will accomplish its mission, when its members have a mind to work.
  1. The walls of Jerusalem were built when the people had a mind to work.
  2. Much can be accomplished when people are working.
- C. These people worked and did not simply talk about working.
  1. Someone has well said, plan the work and work the plan.
  2. Too many of us stay in the planning stage.
- D. The Lord redeemed us and that should cause us to be zealous of good works (Titus 2:14).
  1. We watch the Biggest Loser and one of the contestants on it was talking about how she would always plan to start a diet on Monday,

- 2. but Monday would never come.
- 2. Christians talk a lot about doing this work or that work tomorrow, but tomorrow never seems to come for many.
- E. There are multitudes of lost souls in the world.
  - 1. There are many in the church who are lost.
  - 2. The question is not, what are you planning to do about it.
- F. The church needs people that have a mind to work.

**IV. The people had communication.**

- A. At this time, all the people spoke the same language.
- B. When God confounded their speech, it ruined their ability to work because they could not communicate.
- C. Good communication is vital to the Lord's work.
  - 1. Elders need to be able to communicate with each other and the flock.
  - 2. Members need to be able to communicate to the elders.
- D. Many arguments could be avoided if we would clearly communicate our opinions and ideas - remember it works both ways - a speaker and a listener.
- E. Many good works have been harmed by lack of communication.

**V. The people had God's inspection.**

- A. God came to inspect what they were doing.
  - 1. He did not literally come down as Keil says, but it is used to describe God's involving Himself in the affairs of men.
  - 2. In this case God was judging what was going on and then making a determination of acceptance or punishment.
  - 3. We know in this case it was punishment.
- B. These people probably never figured on God's inspection.
- C. That should never be the case with us
  - 1. We should be aware of the Lord's presence (Matthew 28:20).
  - 2. Paul told the Corinthians, when dealing with the fornicator recorded in chapter five, that they gathered together in the name of the Lord Jesus with His power (vs 4).
- D. The Lord knows what is going on in His church (Revelation 2 & 3).
  - 1. The Lord sees our involvement or lack thereof.
  - 2. The Lord sees our attitudes, both good and bad.
- E. When we will be judged, the book of our life will be opened and there will not be anything missed that we did or did not do.