

Beloved Sisters and Brethren

By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

We see here a negative attitude of mind is shown and they are a warning. These sayings are thought to be written by King Solomon in his old age Ecc. 4:13 *Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.* These words seem to show he had given up hope . Nevertheless Rom 15:4 *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.* We are told:-

1Pe 1:17-19 *And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

Why should this saying concerning building a house be of particular interest to us and suggested for special study? It is because we who have been baptised into Christ and in The Faith are of the **House** of God and this is amply described in the Bible: Heb 3:6 *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.* It is this house that we are called to participate in its building and God has not left us without help as shown below:

1Pe 2:1-6 *Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking, As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual **house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*

Thus FAITH is the mortar of this building. According to how strong our faith is so will our contribution to the building be and there is much to help us in the Word which is the water/spiritual water which, properly applied, gives perfect consistency for the mortar to do its binding/joining qualities

There are two main possible faults brought to our attention in maintenance of a house; the first is described as slothfulness and the second, idleness: both the result of that inaction but look at the meanings:-

Ecc 10:18 *By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.* Here is shown lack of dedication to the Word.

Slothfulness H6103 *chârûts*: passive participle of H2782; properly incised or (active) incisive; hence (as noun masculine or feminine) a trench (as dug), gold (as mined), a threshing sledge (having sharp teeth); (figuratively) determination; also eager: - decision, diligent, (fine) gold, pointed things, sharp, threshing instrument, wall. Total KJV occurrences: 18

But looking at the definition and uses of the word it might be difficult to come to a conclusion in its application to our study. It could be “cutting corners” or making excuses for not giving ones best. It is about cutting –cutting corners and finding excuses. The Readings are

for daily absorption as the Manna was to Israel it was vital for their survival.

Pro 26:13-16 *The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets. As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed. The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth. The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.* (Here is an attitude of mind that forms a barrier against good communication: a know it all; pride is at the root)

There are other passages too concerning what is basically lack of application/dedication: Prov 20v4; 21v5; 23v21; 24v30.

What we must remember is that the house we are considering is not just our own house but the house of the Lord and comprises many members.

We are thus answerable to both God and our companions in Christ

These failures are not necessarily a lack of faith but can be of our very own nature, lack of drive; or that other things seem more important

James 1:8 *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.* (The daily readings left too late in the day so that we are tired or do not get fitted in at all; (they are our daily bread). Well we must be our own judges and let us not judge one another but remember that very soon we shall stand alone before the judge. 1Cor 3 v14-15

And concerning judgement Paul said

2 Cor 10:12 *For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*

The warning is to be diligent and circumspect concerning those whom we accept into the fellowship. Thus the need to be sure that all new entrants fully understand the principles of faith and that they are maintained by all. Also that we have responsibilities to all members.

Jud 1:3-6 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And the angels (messengers) which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness(the grave) unto the judgment of the great day.

We must be also introspective –judging ourselves –trying to see how God sees us and this must be done day by day/hour by hour so that we are sure that when we come to the table we do not defile it. For this we need our minds focused on things above and not of earthly material things

Deu 10:12-13 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

So to building the House of God

Psa 127:1-2 A Song of degrees for Solomon. *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. It is vain for you to rise up early,*

to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

The Truth was held for a number of years by a body known as the Ecclesia of Christ but they lost it over an issue on “meats” –they came to believe that some foods were not acceptable to eat.(See Leviticus 11) They had a monthly booklet entitled THE MASTERS HOUSEHOLD with the caption, “A witness to the falling away of the last days”

And Whose House are we if we hold fast (Heb.3:6) Whosoever shall do the will of my Father...the same is my brother (Matt12:50) Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God.

There were five ecclesias in England one in Buffalo, N.Y. U.S.A. and one in Pomona, California but with the adoption of the false doctrine re foods it became necessary, after protesting, to separate from them. We can only understand this by believing that they had lost the love of the Truth; other things intruded upon their hearts (2Thess 2:10-17)

Which brings us to the realization in Psalm 127:1 A Song of degrees for Solomon. *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.*

So we see that it is the love of God in calling us to be fellow builders of His House for an abiding of His Spirit as described by Paul to the Ephesians in Chapter 2

Love to all in Christ Brother Ken