

Arise and Build

ARISE: 2018

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“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:10-11).

All types of materials are used in construction. Steel and concrete are designed, molded, and poured into pillars, slabs, and blocks until they are stacked to amazing heights of architectural wonder. Wood, bricks, glass, sand, and even cardboard are used in homes and businesses for incredible structures of creativity. Some are built underground while others are built on mountainsides or on piers above the ground. There have been such amazing diversity in designs that some of these constructions in history are awarded a title of manmade wonders of the world. From the pyramids to monuments, temples, and mausoleums, grand structures are built to commemorate achievements and events, heroes and deities. These grand designs were built to last; constructed to withstand the forces of nature and the erosion of time.

To build something lasting there must be a secure foundation. Paul made it clear that the only foundation worthy of an enduring spiritual construction has already been established. That foundation is Jesus Christ. He is certain, secure, settled. We must take heed how we build on that foundation. He is worthy of our best.

Paul wrote of the various materials used in construction and the testing that will come to reveal their endurance. He said, *“Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward” (1 Corinthians 3:12-14).* A spiritual construction is more than material substance, there must be the enduring quality of God’s inspiration and His blessing. Those are qualities that will assure a lasting reward.

We may also feel the prompting and calling of God to erect a physical place of worship or some other material construction. Many churches, auditoriums, schools, campgrounds, or retreat facilities have been built to fulfill a need for ministry. The motivation in the construction was to provide a place for people to find help, healing, or deliverance; a place where the lost can find God and salvation might be experienced.

When God calls us to arise and build there should be no reticence or excuses. It is time for action, time for launching the project and stepping forward in faith to fulfill the vision God has given. From David’s desire to construct a temple for the Lord to Solomon’s completion of the project, from the building of the second temple of Zerubbabel to the repair of the broken walls, we are given examples of what can be accomplished when God’s people arise to build something for the glory of the Lord. It is time to *arise!*

Arise and build!

Scripture:

“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build ...” (Nehemiah 2:20).

1/7/18 Launch Sunday (New)