

Washington church of Christ

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Lessons from "Project -- Tower"

By Sewell Hall

The effort to build a tower "whose top is in the heavens," as described in Genesis 11:1-9, is the only event of significance detailed by the Scriptures between Noah and the call of Abraham. Most readers will be familiar with the story, but all are urged to read it again. It contains much information that is historically valuable, but its greatest value is in the principles revealed concerning God and man. Consider at least three.

1. Big is not always good. Of all people who have ever lived, Americans may well be the most intoxicated with bigness. We take pride in living in the biggest city, in attending the biggest school and undergoing surgery in the biggest hospital; to say nothing of having the biggest house, driving the biggest car and owning the biggest farm. All too often, such standards are applied religiously. Some judge the truth of a proposition by how many people accept it. They judge a church by the amplitude of its building, the magnitude of its programs and the multitude of its members. Some even go so far as to suppose that the growth of a church necessarily proves that God is with them and approves of their actions.

The tower project in the Plain of Shinar was a big undertaking. It may very well have involved all mankind and the plans were visionary indeed. But God did not approve it. It was wrong for at least two reasons: First, it was the product of human ambition and had as its aim the glory of man rather than the glory of God. Second, it was designed to accomplish the opposite of God's expressed will. God had said, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1). The stated purpose of building the tower was "lest we be scattered over the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:4).

The consolidating of Christians into larger congregations and the building of large buildings is not wrong if it can be demonstrated that it will result in the saving of more souls or the transformation of more individuals into the likeness of Christ; but to do such things "to make a name for ourselves" is surely an abomination to God, just as the tower of Babel was. In the first century, evangelism was expedited by the scattering of the Jerusalem church and this is

Order of Services

Sunday August 24, 2014

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Bill Duryea
Preaching	Daniel Wydro
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	David Osinski
Prayer for the Cup	Arnold Thompson
Prayer for the Collection	Bob Celentano
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Morning Closing Prayer	Scott Thomas
Evening Opening Prayer	Tom Dolan
Announcements	Brian Jeffries

Schedule of Weekly Services

Sunday Morning Bible Classes	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Classes	7:30 pm
Thursday Morning Bible Study	11:00 am

usually the more effective method today. After all, we have also been instructed to "go into all the world" (Mark 16:15).

2. Unity and cooperation are not always desirable. The enthusiasm of the people in "Project-Tower" is evident in much of what they had to say. We can almost feel the thrill of having so many united and cooperating in the effort. They must have been saying, "Isn't this fellowship wonderful?"

God did not consider it wonderful! He would have been pleased if someone had disrupted that unity—if someone had risen to object, reminding them of God's instructions. If such objections had proved to be futile, God would have been pleased to see one or more walk away and disassociate themselves from their brothers. Someone, by faith, should have heard God saying, "Come ye out from among them and be ye separate." But no one was listening.

God does desire unity, but only in truth. He does desire cooperation, but only in doing His will. True unity and cooperation do not require physical proximity. We do not have to sit on the same platform or write for the same paper to have fellowship in Christ. Those ancient people in Genesis would have been cooperating with God and with one another if they had gone their separate ways and replenished the earth as God had said. This would have been acceptable fellowship— that good and pleasant unity in doing God's will that is so desirable. As it was, they united in rebellion and cooperated for human glory; with such unity God has never been pleased.

3. God's will will be done! These people did not voluntarily obey God's instructions to fill the earth. But God's will was done. By confusing their language, He "scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth"—the very thing they had sought to avoid. God's will was done, but there was no blessing in it for them.

I am convinced that if we fail to "go into all the world and preach the gospel," God's will will somehow be done. As Mordecai said to Esther,

"If you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise.... from another place, but you and your father's house will perish" (Esther 4:14).

Those who hear the gospel may reject it and refuse to acknowledge Jesus now, but one day they will do so.

"God also has highly exalted Him and given to Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

How much better to do God's will now, voluntarily for the reward He has promised, than to be forced against our will and to our eternal shame!

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Bill Duryea's mother is back home but is still recovering ... Georgia DeLorenzo is still dealing with her illness and is at home.

For Wisdom and Good Judgment – The Leaders of our congregation ... the leaders of our nation

For God's Care and Good Providence – Our young people away at college ... Our young people here at Washington ... our members who are traveling ... the men and women in military service ... our congregation ... the Evangelist and Teachers We Help Support

EVENTS AND NOTES

- ▲ THE NEXT MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH.
- ▲ OUR NEXT THURSDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 4TH AT THE PERKIN'S RESTAURANT IN PHILLIPSBURG STARTING AT 10AM. ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE WHENEVER YOU CAN ... MORE IMPORTANTLY INVITE THOSE WHO MAYBE SEEKING JESUS!
- ▲ WE HAVE A "MEET-UP" SITE ON THE WEB ... [HTTP://WWW.MEETUP.COM/THURSDAY-MORNING-BIBLE-STUDY-AT-PERKINS-IN-PHILLIPSBURG-NJ](http://www.meetup.com/Thursday-Morning-Bible-Study-at-Perkins-in-Phillipsburg-NJ) ... CHECK IT OUT!
- ▲ WE NEED A JUNIOR CLASS TEACHER FOR THE BIBLE SCHOOL TERM WHICH STARTS ON OCTOBER 5TH.
- ▲ THERE IS A REVISED BUILDING CLEAN-UP AND RESPONSIBILITIES SCHEDULE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD. PLEASE REVIEW IT SO THAT YOU KNOW WHEN YOUR FAMILY IS SCHEDULED.
- ▲ PLEASE KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT ON THE WEBSITE. THE INFO IS USED TO COMMUNICATE NEWS AND EVENTS