

The Church Builder

“Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God:..The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds; and calls them by name....The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground.” (Psalm 147.1-6)

Two significant innovations mark the worldly ecclesiastical scene of today: The “worship leader” and the “megachurch”. The two go hand in hand, and both have the same author and origin. Neither are of God or in scripture, for they are the inventions of men, devised by man’s vain imaginations and fueled by fleshy ambition.... to distinguish themselves by accomplishing something significant.

Saints worship and praise the Lord out of the overflow of their hearts for his goodness and mercies to them. They do not need someone to coach and coax them to open their mouths, raise their hands, lift up their voices or simply kneel in quiet and adoring admiration. Two offices stand out through all the scripture: The chief singer, and the prophet (or preacher). The preacher gives them the word of God which provokes them to provoke them the sing; and chief singers help the people to better sing on key and in concert. Chief singers are best scattered throughout the congregation than standing on a platform performing before their eyes. Worldly megachurchs, on the other hand are built on the principle that too much Bible, too much scripture, too much of the word of God “turns people off”. So they never receive enough redemptive truth to make them want to worship and praise God.

Saints worship and praise the Lord for good reason. He is the original, and the only real megachurch builder. Jesus said “upon this rock *I* will build *my* church”. That rock is the divine revelation of Who Jesus is (Matt. 16:13-18). HE builds up Jerusalem. The gates of hell cannot prevail against it because they know Who Jesus is.

Where does this great multitude of people come from, and what sort of people are they? They are not the “movers and shakers” of society. They are not the winners, those with the success stories, the mighty in power. The Lord has no need for the mighty. He is the mighty One. Might is centered in Him alone. These “gathered” ones are outcasts, rejects, losers, Both the world and its religions have rejected these whom the Lord gathers. He heals their broken hearts and binds up their wounds. Then He gives each of these nobodies a name that is known only to Him and the one to whom He gives it. When He calls that name, no one hears it except the one whose name is called. Here is personal care of which that the mass of nameless, faceless people in the worldly megachurch knows nothing. The proud and wicked will never know this God who is worthy of our praise. All, however, who humble themselves under His Mighty Hand will be lifted up and gathered.

- C. M.