

December 19, 2023

**The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.**

**Ps. 127:1 *Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.* (NIV)**

One of the most significant statements in scripture is uttered here by the wisest monarch of Israel. King Solomon knew that no matter what ‘earthly riches’ that could be put into a building, or even more specifically into our lives, it would all be useless without the LORD. Every person who has ever lived, will find out someday that what they thought would bring peace and pleasure, will fail. No amount of money or prestige or popularity will ever fulfill the missing ingredient in our soul. There is a longing in every soul for a peace that will last. Paul reiterates this in **Phil. 4:7 *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*** (NIV) Most people think that they can find joy and happiness in something that this world has to offer. If they could just land that special job or if they could meet that perfect person, then everything would be just right. But all that this world has to offer is fading and imperfect. What once seemed so promising can quickly turn into a nightmare. I’m reminded of a young girl that came to me for counseling many years ago. She had met this young man and just knew that he was the one for her. The problem was that her parents did not approve of him because he was not a Christian. She thought that she could win him over by dating him and ultimately marrying him. We used to call that ‘missionary dating.’ The result is never what you think. It is like trying to put oil and water together. It doesn’t work. I questioned her about this and shared with her that scripture says the two are to become one, and yet she was set on marrying this young man. And so, she did as soon as she turned eighteen. Against my advice and her parent’s wishes, she eloped with him, and they were married. And within a few short months, she was distraught when she found out that he was cheating on her with an ‘older woman.’ Broken, she called me in tears. “I just don’t understand why he would do this to me” she said. I was so in love with him. I recall telling her that unless the LORD builds the house, those who labor, labor in vain. God’s word cannot be broken; instead, it will break you if you disregard it. We must be continually reminded that the LORD’s word is there to help us and not to harm us. **1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.*** (NIV)

**Dear LORD, help us to trust Your Word completely. We must say ‘no’ to this world and its lures and desires, and ‘yes’ to You. We must look to You. In Jesus Name, Amen**