

# **SOUTH WAKE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

- **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY** 10:00 am
- **SUNDAY SERVICE** 11:00 am
- **SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE** 5:00 pm
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT** 7:00 pm

**Welcome and please come visit with us again soon  
as we serve our Lord!**

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Jude 20

**20** But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

**NT:2026 epoikodomeo (ep-oy-kod-om-eh'-o);** from **NT:1909** and **NT:3618**; to build upon: **KJV** - build thereon (thereupon, on, upon).

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Matthew 7:24

**24** Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

God wants us to build ourselves up and grow. But we shouldn't just be concerned with things that involve ourselves. **God has designed the church that we are to help one another.**

# Building Up the Body of Christ

**Ephesians 4:15-16** **15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: **16** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the **edifying of itself** in love.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

- Drive together or unite (by association or affection) “**compacted**”
- Strong working “**effectual working**”
- Build a house “**edifying**”

You and I are joints in this body. **Every one of us needs to be concerned with the building up of the whole body**, not just ourselves. We need to understand what God is trying to accomplish in his church, and not just be self-centered and narrow-minded and think about what I need to do to build myself up, but to be working with God to accomplish His plans.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Philippians 2:19-23

**19** But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. **20** For I have **no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.** **21** For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. **22** But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. **23** Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

God looked for and found Himself a man that wasn't just looking out for himself. **Timothy was seeking the things of Jesus Christ, and so God used him** to go to work with the Corinthians and help perfect that which was lacking.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Different kinds of people

1) fighting against God

2) doing their own things

3) doing what they have to in order to get by –  
unprofitable servants

obedience to God is a burden

use any excuse to get our of serving God

“I can’t read; I cut my finger!”

It’s not the fact that he stayed home that sent his  
soul to hell

# Building Up the Body of Christ

It was the attitude that kept him there

4) zealous of good works, mind the things of Christ

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Romans 9:21

**21** Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump **to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?**

God can make of me either a lump to honor or a lump to dishonor. **Which do I want to be?** Do I want to be used like Judas, or like Paul?

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## 2 Timothy 2:20-21

**20** But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and **some to honor, and some to dishonor.**

**21** If a man therefore purge himself from **these**, he shall be a **vessel unto honor**, sanctified, **and meet for the master's use**, and **prepared unto every good work.**

# Building Up the Body of Christ

In my house in the kids room, I hope soon to have a **vessel that is made of plastic that I put the dirty diapers in.** At the time this was written, **people used earthen vessels to carry waste in.** But if they had a **wedding feast**, they would bring out the **best gold and silver dishes** to put the food and drink in.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

If I purge myself from these, prepare myself to every good work, God will make me a vessel of honor. This word, 'meet', 2173, is literally 'well employed' or 'easily used'.

**Am I the kind of vessel that is easily used for the Master's purposes? Can I, through God's help, make myself easily used for these things?**

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Genesis 18:17-19

**17** And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

**18** Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

**19** For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

God didn't just choose body to be the father of the faithful, through whom the Savior of the world would be born. He chose somebody that would be faithful and **also** train his children to be faithful. This caused God to be able to bring on Abraham the thing that he had spoken of him. That he would be the father of many nations (not just the Jews and the Ishmaelites, but Abraham is the father of all the faithful in every Gentile nation) and that through Abraham's seed (Jesus) all the world would be blessed.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

So we need to become vessels that God can use to build up His church.

Timothy **wasn't the only one** that was easily used to do the Lord's to build up his church.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Acts 9:10-15

**10** And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. **11** And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, **12** And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. **13** Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how

# Building Up the Body of Christ

much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: **14** And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

**15** But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for **he is a chosen vessel unto me**, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

# Building Up the Body of Christ

Paul is a good example of someone that was a chosen vessel for God, and **he proved himself to be well employed for the Master's use.**

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

**22** To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. **23** And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

He had his mind on things above: **teaching the gospel, turning men so serve God**, purifying the church. **He had a strong drive to do those things.** You could see this by his example and his prayers.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

**1 Thessalonians 1:5-9** Example in his example.

**5** For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as **ye know what manner of men we were among you** for your sake. **6** And **ye became followers of us**, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: **7** So that **ye were ensamples** to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. **8** For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward

# Building Up the Body of Christ

is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. **9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you,** and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

Not only was he a good example, but **he taught the Thessalonians to be good examples, too.**

And why did he do it? He was concerned with the things of Christ. He had his mind on things above, what God was trying to accomplish in the world.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## 1 Thessalonians 3:9-10 Example in Prayer

**9** For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;

**10** Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might **perfect that which is lacking** in your faith?

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Colossians 1:3-4

**3** We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you,**

**4** Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Philippians 1:3-8

**3** I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, **4** Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, **5** For your **fellowship in the gospel** from the first day until now; **6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: **7** Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, **because I have you in my heart**; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

**8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.**

Notice how diligent he was in prayer. “In **every** prayer of mine....” He wasn’t just marking time, trying to get by doing what he had to. **He was genuinely concerned** about the souls of men in the church.

There was a reason Paul prayed so much for his breather in Thessalonica, Philippi and Colossai.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Exodus 32:9-14 – Moses prays for Israel

**9** And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff-necked people: **10** Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. **11** And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? **12** Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he<sup>27</sup>

# Building Up the Body of Christ

bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. **13** Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swearest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. **14** And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

Our prayers can make a difference in the church. God may actually decide to keep trying, or not to give some help if nobody seems to care.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Ezekiel 22:29-31

**29** The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. **30** And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. **31** Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

What if God had found a righteous man to stand in the gap for Israel? What if God had found ten righteous men in the city of Sodom? What would have happened to Israel if Moses had not prayed to God for them? The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man **does** make a difference!

[Pray for our Government]

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## 1 Timothy 2:1-4

**1** I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; **2** For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. **3** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; **4** Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## 1 Kings 3:5-10

**5** In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. **6** And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. **7** And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little<sup>33</sup>

# Building Up the Body of Christ

child: I know not how to go out or come in. **8** And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. **9** Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? **10** And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

We need to pray for wisdom to edify the church of God. Not just once or twice, but continually. We **need** wisdom to build up the church.

## Colossians 4:2-4

**2** Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; **3** Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: **4** That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Philippians 1:19-20

**19** For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

**20** According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Ephesians 6:18-20

**18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

**19** And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

**20** For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

Paul was continually asking people to pray for boldness for him, because he wanted God's gospel to be preached. We need to pray for boldness that we will speak the work without fear like we **ought** to speak.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Hebrews 10:24

**24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Above all, we need to consider one another to incite each other to love and to incite each other to do good works. If necessary, you might want to sit down and make our a list of your brethren and sisters and say, “OK, what does brother so-in-so need? What does sister so-in-so need? Somebody says, “That judgmental!” **No,**

# Building Up the Body of Christ

brethren, that is **considering** one another to provoke to love and good work; this is for a **good** purpose. What does it mean to incite to love?

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

**4** Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **5** Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **6** Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **7** Bareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. **8** Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

To incite to longsuffering and humility and unselfishness and self-control and love of the truth and hope....., we have to spend time with each other. Even in a small congregation like this, there are more people than there are days of the week to spend time with. But we need to be obeying this command with **somebody**. Whether it is our children, or spouses or relatives or just friends.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Hebrews 3:12-14

**12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

**13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

**14** For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;

# Building Up the Body of Christ

A bad example is as valuable as a good one.  
Soldiers – mines - human cannonball.  
This is what you should not do!

# Building Up the Body of Christ

## Acts 20:28-31

**28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. **29** For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. **30** Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. **31** Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day

# **Building Up the Body of Christ**

with tears.

# Building Up the Body of Christ

\*Each Christian should strive for not forsaking the assembly.

\*Each Christian should strive for paying attention during the assembly.

Whispering, giggling and punching each other.

The Lord has blessed us with lots of young children – train; not entertain

# Building Up the Body of Christ

Distraction sometimes necessary – Does it take four adults to entertain one baby.

consider what I'm teaching that child

considerate to others around

insulting to the speaker

reverent to Jesus – holy assembly not a picnic or a side –show

\*Each Christian should strive for listening in class and attending Bible studies.

Take the time and the effort – no Christian is too smart/spiritual/knowledgeable

# **SOUTH WAKE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

- **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY** **10:00 AM**
- **SUNDAY WORSHIP** **11:00 AM**
- **SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP** **5:00 PM**
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT** **7:00 PM**

**Welcome and please come worship with us again  
soon!**