

BUILDING WALLS AND BRIDGES

Proverbs 25:28

Introduction:

- 1. In ancient times, cities were walled for protection from enemies.**
 - a. Vineyards and gardens also had walls to keep animals out.**
 - b. Walls symbolize protection and separation.**
- 2. Bridges have been built across rivers and ravines from earliest times.**
 - a. They are for ease and safety in crossing.**
 - b. Some Roman bridges are still in use after 2,000 years.**
- 3. Spiritually, there is a time for building walls, and for recognizing those God has built.**
- 4. Spiritually, there is also a time for building bridges.**

Discussion:

I. SOME THINGS REQUIRE A WALL AROUND THEM.

- A. The last Congress approved the money for building a wall along our border with Mexico.**
 - 1. It was to keep illegal immigrants out, including terrorists.**
 - 2. It has yet to be built.**
 - 3. A nation that cannot maintain its borders will cease to exist.**
- B. God has built a wall around the Gospel of Christ.**
 - 1. The Gospel is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16,17).**
 - 2. The heart of the Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4).**
 - 3. There is only one true Gospel (Gal. 1:6-9; 2:4, 5).**
 - 4. We must "contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 3).**
- C. Today, there are enemies who would destroy the Gospel.**
 - 1. Modernists deny the inspiration of the Bible and the divinity of Christ (2 Tim. 3:16; Jn. 1:1, 14).**
 - 2. Denominationalists teach that truth is relative (Jn. 8:32; 14:6; 1 Jn. 5:11,12).**
 - 3. Secularism (the world) threatens the church from inside.**
 - a. In the 2nd and 3rd centuries, the church tried to win the educated elite by presenting the Gospel in philosophical terms.**
 - b. This simply accelerated the drift into apostasy.**
 - c. The church is in the world, but the world must never be allowed in the church (1 Jn. 2:15-17).**

II. SOME THINGS REQUIRE THE BUILDING OF BRIDGES.

- A. Sometimes we need to build bridges in relationships.**
 - 1. Husbands and wives may have conflicts which drive them apart (Eph. 5:22-33).**

- a. Wives must submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ.
 - b. Husbands must love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it.
 - 2. Parents and children must build bridges to close the “generation gap” (Eph. 6:1-4).
 - 3. Members of the church need to build bridges to one another.
 - a. We are “members of one another” (Rom. 12:5).
 - b. We must be “kindly affectionate to one another” (Rom. 12:10).
 - c. We must forgive one another (Eph. 4:32).
- B. There are many reasons for building bridges to others.
 - 1. We must build bridges to live at peace (Rom. 12:18).
 - 2. We must build bridges to establish friendships (Prov. 18:24).
 - 3. We must build bridges to open doors for teaching the Gospel.
 - a. Our biggest mission field is usually closest to us.
 - b. “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

Conclusion:

- 1. We need to build bridges so that others who come after us will find the way easier.
- 2. The poem “The Bridge Builder” by W. A. Dromgoole illustrates this.
- 3. The greatest gift you can give to yourself and to future generations is living the Christian life.
 - a. You will save your soul.
 - b. Your children and children’s children will call you blessed.
 - c. How wonderful it will be to be in Heaven with generations yet unborn because you started the chain!!
- 4. The Gospel saves, but it must be obeyed (Rom. 6:17; 3-5).