



# To Build 'Em Up

"To Build Them Up" is yet another Ecclesiastical expression: "...a time to build up..." - which means essentially to Encourage, to build up or uplift.

By  
H. Kirk Rainer  
[buildup@hkirkrainer.org](mailto:buildup@hkirkrainer.org)

# Introduction



A public defender commented (during a session) that this world is really messed-up. Well, not that most of us don't realize this, but in all *The Mess*, how often are we encouraged; or for that matter, do we want to be encouraged?

If we do (want to be encouraged), than we may just have to Venture-out to this encouragement. Like a nomad traveling through a barren desert, the wellspring or oasis may be few-and-far-between...and even then, could be a mirage. Yet Isaiah tells us, "If your Thirsty, come to the Water..."

On the perusal of the Web, I came across the quote: "Without friends, life is empty and incomplete." ...and friends are called friends because they strive *to build 'me up*.

# "Hang-On Snoopy"



*What is the world has Snoopy got do with giving "our hearts"? Well anyone who has ever watched, read or followed The Peanuts, can testify that young or old, "our hearts" are with this band of never-aging kids and their beagle.*

*It' true; no one could patronize or be condescending toward the dog - simply because he does not realize he is a dog - but is something more...*

## 1 Thessalonians 2...

*We were never patronizing, never condescending, but we cared for you the way a mother cares for her children. We loved you dearly. Not content to just pass on the Message, we wanted to give you our hearts. And we did.*

*- The Message*

# "A Bridge Over Water"



It may be a small bridge to seemingly nowhere; but it is a robust bridge - a Roman-style bridge.

But the bridge that is described in the scripture is not tangible or concrete - it is spiritual and figurative.

This *bridge of life* is offered by Christ with all assurance that your fear will be overcome by love by-and-by...

## Matthew 14...

But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come ahead."

- *The Message*

# "Restoring the Temple"



A temple can be a building; but, according to Christ, it can also be a person.

Unlike a building or similar structure, a person is said to live-on to eternity - with Christ as Lord of his life.

Still, this "human" temple has to be changed - sometimes suddenly and sometimes gradually - in order to manifest the presence of eternity...

## Acts 17...

We live and move in him, can't get away from him! One of your poets said it well: 'We're the God-created.' ...The unknown is now known, and he's calling for a radical life-change.

- *The Message*

# "Dancing Blues?"



How can you be blue - and dance at the same time? Well, as impossible as it may sound, you can have blues turned into dancing.

If anyone knows about blues, it would have been the king-elect, David (a.k.a. the Shepard). On the run from King Saul, he had much to despair over - even his life!

Yet David received this elation; that changed "wild lament" into praise, feet shuffling to dancing, and sadness into thankfulness...

## Psalm 11...

You did it: you changed wild lament  
into whirling dance;  
You ripped off my black mourning band  
and decked me with wildflowers.  
I'm about to burst with song;  
I can't keep quiet about you.  
God, my God,  
I can't thank you enough.

- *The Message*

# "White as Cotton"



The color of white is sometimes associated with cleanliness or purity. Though this color has several shades as other colors, it has this analogy with being clean - the whiter the cleaner.

To look on a cotton field in the fall is to see one or more of these shades of white; maybe not the purest white, but white just the same. But this *flower of the Southland* does not come from anything white (dirt, seed and stem), but grows into such color and thickness like a cloud...

## Isaiah 1...

"Come. Sit down. Let's argue this out."

This is God's Message:

"If your sins are blood-red, they'll be snow-white..

- *The Message*

# "Join in the Parade"



What will it be like; the *parade of all time* that was preceded by *The Triumphal Entry* of Jesus into Jerusalem

When Jesus entered the city, he was recognized and identified by crowds; but now he asks us to come and join the parade - come and see what the Lord has to offer for the throngs...

## Matthew 21...

Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son!"

- *The Message*

# "Saved from the Coliseum"



In the days (or years) that followed Christ' ascension, the temple or church was persecuted: Christians of *The Way* were sentenced to the coliseums of the reigning Roman empire; and there, were subject to all sundry of public persecution for the pleasure of patrons.

Ironically, this persecution or "trouble" produced prosperity in the form of faith and hope - of the life to come...

## Romans 5...

There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. .

- *The Message*

# "Justice like no other"



Our God is a just God; as Christ is the bearer of truth.

Without truth, justice cannot flourish; but with truth, it can flourish - even in the "badlands desert".

The arrival of Justice brings life or "fertile land"; a land of Peace as only God can make...

Isaiah 32...

Justice will move into the badlands desert.

Right will build a home in the fertile field.

And where there's Right,  
there'll be Peace  
and the progeny of Right: quiet  
lives and endless trust.

- *The Message*