UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATION / JANUARY 16, 2023

PSALM 127:1-2 NIV – **(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. **(2)** In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves.

You have heard me refer to the importance of having the knowledge of God. The understanding of how He meant it according to His rule and the application (acting out on what you have learned). All three-go hand and hand.

Whether running a home or building a house, working at a factory or supporting a ministry, there is one vital principle that is all-embracing. It is that all our undertakings require a total dependence upon God for without the Lord being in charge, all efforts will be frustrated, and all activities will be rendered unsuccessful: "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it. Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain."

No family will flourish, no building will be sound, no city will be successful, and no church will be unified unless the Lord is the one who establishes it. No matter how much money is spent and how skilled workers may be... unless it is built and blessed by the Lord, it will crumble and be headed for ruin. Jesus said, "I will build my Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it," and He is the only One Who is able to ensure the success of our earthly endeavors.

It is king Solomon to whom this psalm is ascribed, whose great wisdom was acclaimed throughout the world and many of his precepts and proverbs, which were inspired by the Holy Spirit, are contained in the Scriptures. And it was the same Solomon who recalls in the book of Ecclesiastes that without the Lord everything is futile and filled with vanity, while the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and humanity is urged to reverence His holy name.

SCRIPTURE READING
ACTS 20:35

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
Only by giving are you able to receive more than you already have.