

Be strong and courageous
Trust the designer
Do the work

Because next week is Father's day, this Sunday will be the last chance we have to encourage you before we leave. More than anything we hope to remind you that CrossRoads belongs to God as do each of you. Each of you has been placed here according to God's purpose. And now it is time for you to put that purpose into drive.

We are going to share communion this morning as Joyce, the Boys and I prepare to say good-bye. We will gather around the memory of God's great gift to recall why we are all here in the first place.

Saying good-bye is never easy. To take it too lightly or too heavily is not healthy. Even if we are saying goodbye for just one year it is important that you know we love you and care deeply about you. What we have learned together that God is never wrong and is always good so we can trust him. We have seen even in the most difficult circumstances that God has been faithful, is faithful, and will continue to be faithful to his purposes in you...and God's purposes are not always what we might want.

Therefore, you need not fear what is coming but look forward to the ways God will continue to grow this community of faith. We admonish you to trust him. Having said that, and this is the hard part, you need to let go of us in order to truly trust your Lord and move ahead in his purposes. You must let go of us and turn to the work of building God's kingdom.

My message this morning is simple and challenging...

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I'd like to show you something...

What do you see?

(images of crossroads people)

What do you think God sees?

Listen to 1 Peter 2:4-5,9

As you come to him, the living stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also like living stones, are being **built into a spiritual house** to be a holy

priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices **acceptable to God** through Jesus Christ...But you **are a chosen people**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, **THAT YOU MAY DECLARE THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT.**

That's what God sees as he looks at CrossRoads and each of you an integral part of it...a spiritual house, acceptable because of it is wrought through the work of God's heart in Jesus- ...chosen to declare his praises of him who called you out of darkness and into his wonderful light.

Let me go back to another building program. Found in 1 Chronicles We find during David's last sickness (he was leaving), many chief priests and Levites were at Jerusalem. David spoke of his purpose to build a temple for God, and of God's disallowing that purpose. He told them that God was going to build the temple through his son Solomon. David charged them to stick to God and their duty. It was going to take all the people to build and fulfill the purposes of the temple.

In chapter 28 verse 20. **David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous" and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.**

If it was just a building program what's the big deal? This building program was unique because it was the only temple (church) built to the one true God and the nations around didn't see eye to eye with being excluded. They were going to need to be strong and courageous to be and remain as God's chosen people. It would take them 26 years to finish the work of building the temple but never finished with the meaning of what the temple represents...worshiping and serving God.

Then in 1Kings 9:1-4 says **When Solomon had finished building the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do, the LORD appeared to him and said to him:**

"I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

Then God charged Solomon "As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness...

This is what God has been doing through people like you for 3 thousand years. Building the place where he dwells and his praises are raised...be it Solomon's Temple or CrossRoads. God sees it the same as if your pictures were taken 786 years before Christ in

the temple when it was finished. It is the same and Papa's eye is still on his people his Heart still here.

I said this was a simple message. It is. Crossroads you are God's spiritual house, accepted and chosen...Be Strong and courageous, Trust Papa the designer in everything and Do the work... BEGINNING IN 10 DAYS you are charged to BUILD the temple of the Gospel where Gods praises are to be heard.

This is God's promise spoken through David - Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.

As far as I understand it the work of the service of the temple is not finished until Jesus returns...so saddle up and remember.

God is never wrong and is always good You can trust him

(Picture) especially when it seems impossible

You will need resolution in your commitment to God. You will need to grow in grace and faith. You will need strength and courage when the building is difficult. You will need to walk in integrity before God and with each other. You will need to trust the designer if you are going to do the work.

Remember In Matthew 16:13-17 -- **Jesus asked his disciples... "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

As we move into communion we remember Jesus purpose in Peter and Peter's confession I will build my church. You already have or will have what you will need for everything God is asking you to do...

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