

Amazing Grace

Bible Study Fellowship

From Which “Plan” Shall We

Build?

Part 1 of 2



J. Michael Schroeder

Amazing Grace Bible Study Fellowship is a non-denominational church fellowship dedicated to the publishing of the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16), and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery of Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 3:3. Our goal is to study the Bible in accordance with 2 Timothy 2:15, in order to become established in the truth of it according to Romans 1:11; to the end that we might come into conformity with the will of God for our lives according to Romans 12:3.

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Part 1 of 2

A real estate developer approached a builder he knew and trusted with a set of blueprints, and said, “This is a house plan I want you to build on a lot in a subdivision I am developing. I will provide the finances to pay for the materials and labor, plus a small stipend for yourself during the construction phase, and then split the profits with you, 40/60, when the house sells.” The builder agreed, they shook hands, and the project commenced.

In the meantime, the builder noticed that all of the other houses going up around the one he was building had gabled roof designs; the plan he was given required a hip roof design. So, he decided to consult a local real estate agent he knew who was familiar with what was selling in the local market. The agent confirmed what he had already suspected; gabled roofs were in and hips were out. Armed with this information, he decided that it would be in the best interest of both himself and his boss, the developer, to alter the roof design of the plan from a hip to a gabled roof.

1

When the house was completed, he called the developer to let him know that it was ready to be placed on the market. The developer suggested they meet at the job sight. When the builder arrived, the developer was standing in front of the house, his arms crossed over his chest, with a very unhappy look on his face. He turned to the builder and said, “what is this? This isn’t the plan I gave you to build.” The builder quickly explained why he had made the change in the roof design, how he had done it with the developer’s best interest in mind, but the developer’s displeasure was not assuaged. He bluntly informed the builder that he didn’t care what the “market” demanded, his instructions were to build the house exactly as the plan he had provided called for. Furthermore, he told the builder that because he had taken it upon himself to do this without his consent, he had breached their agreement and would not share in any profits at the sale of the house.

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Notice he didn’t say to consider what any of the other writers of the NT wrote. He pointedly says to consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Moreover, he says that anyone (Christian) who desires God’s approval must rightly divide the word of truth. The word divide means to separate³, as in separate out his (“my”) gospel⁴ from the other gospel⁵ Supportive of this is the declarations he makes in the letters to the Corinthians and the Romans:

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 1 Cor 3:10-15

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. Rom 16:25-27

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