

RD 101 Series Lesson #9, Part 2

God's Design for the Believer's Edification

In Paul's epistles, God has set forth His divinely arranged "form of sound words" which are designed to produce "godly edifying" in the inner man of the believer, thus bringing about true spiritual establishment and maturity (1 Tim. 1:3-5; 3:16-17; 2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 10:8, 13:10).

But what exactly is "godly edification," how is it accomplished in the life of the believer, and what is the goal of edification? (2 Cor. 10:8, 13:10, 12:19; 1 Thes. 5:11; Eph. 4:12-16)

I. What Is Edification?

- A. Edify - 1. To build. 2. To instruct and improve the mind in knowledge generally, and particularly in moral and religious knowledge, in faith and holiness. 3. To teach.
- B. Edifying - Building up; instructing; improving the mind.
- C. Edification - A building up, in a moral and religious sense; instruction; improvement and progress of the mind, in knowledge, in morals, in faith and holiness.

II. What Is "Godly Edifying?" (1 Tim. 1:4)

- A. Having our inner man built up by following the divinely arranged blueprint/design for our spiritual growth and maturity.
- B. God desires that the saints would be edified (Gal. 4:19; Eph. 4:13)
 - 1. 1 Tim. 2:4 - "...and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."
 - 2. Eph. 4:12-16, 29 - God has given His Word to produce edification
 - 3. Rom. 14:19, 15:2 - Seeking one another's growth and maturity
- C. "Godly edifying" produces "the man of God" (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- D. The "man of God" lives/functions out of the "sound doctrine" built up in his/her soul (1 Tim. 1:3-5)
- E. There is a "form" or "pattern" of "sound words" that must be followed (2 Tim. 1:13-14)

III. Paul Identifies the Threefold Plan/Blueprint (Rom. 16:25-26)

- A. My gospel - A unique and separate gospel (Gal. 1:11-12; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rom. 3:25)
 - Establishes a proper **foundation**
 - Gives a proper orientation to God's **grace** in all that He is doing.

B. The preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery - Preaching Christ according to the plan/purpose that God kept hidden in Himself (Eph. 3:9).

Establishes a proper understanding of our **fulness**

Gives a proper orientation to **God's goal** in all He is doing

C. The scriptures of the prophets - Emphasizes all the scripture in the light of Paul's epistles (2 Tim. 2:7-8; 3:15-17).

Establishes a proper view of our **future**

Gives a proper orientation to God's **glory** in all that He is doing.

IV. **The Layout of Paul's Epistles - Romans through Philemon**

A. The very layout of the epistles of the apostle Paul (Romans through Philemon), when studied and believed, guide and instruct the believer in the process of going from being a "babe" in Christ to being a mature "man of God, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

1. Roman through Galatians - Focus on Christ and His **cross**-work (Rom. 3:25-26; 1 Cor. 1:17-18; Gal. 1:4, 2:20, 6:14)

2. Ephesians through Colossians - Focus on Christ and His **church** (Eph. 1:22-23, 2:15-16, 3:10; Phil. 1:6, 2:13, 4:19; Col. 1:18, 24)

3. 1 & 2 Thes. - Focus on Christ and His **coming** (1 Thes. 1:9-10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:15-18, 5:1-11; 2 Thes. 1:10, 2:1-14, 3:5)

4. 1 Tim. through Philemon - Focus on learning, living, and experiencing the edified life in and among other believers in a local assembly. (1Tim. 1:4; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Titus 1:5; Phile 6)