

# “God Builds” – Pr Jim Sprengle – Pentecost Day June 5, 2022 – Confirmation Service

- I. **Genesis 11:1-9** previously read
- II. **Kids love to build stuff...**
  - a. When I was spending time with the grandkids, at least once a day the building blocks got dragged out and dumped all over the floor.
    - i. Sometimes the idea was the adults built a tower and the little guys crushed it like Godzilla...
    - ii. Other times, Theo or Evie built the tower themselves.
  - b. When I was a kid we had Legos, erector sets, Lincoln Logs, and regular old building blocks.
    - i. Not only that, but we were always building a fort of some kind.
    - ii. A clubhouse, a treehouse, or a snow cave were always worth an afternoon of fun.
    - iii. I guess today the stuff you guys build is from Minecraft or Sims... or maybe there's a newer video game on the market?
  - c. But today... especially today... I don't want you to think about what you can build, but what God builds.
- III. **Remember the story we read about the Tower of Babel?**
  - a. God's people didn't listen to Him and tried to build a tower to reach heaven.
  - b. So God mixed up their language and sent them all over the world – just like He told them to go in the first place when they didn't listen.
  - c. They didn't trust God, they thought they could do it all by themselves.
  - d. Each of you Confirmands today will begin to make more and more choices on your own –
    - i. What classes do I take... will I start driving... will I get a job?
    - ii. Maybe it's a choice of colleges or who you will date...
    - iii. But in all these things, God will guide you... God is with you... and God will work through you... when you continue to put your trust in Him.
    - iv. There is an old proverb that King Solomon wrote – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)
  - e. It seems that today, everyone tells you to find your own way, to make your own path, but I can tell you from experience that God's way is the best.
- IV. **You see, we have a God is worthy of our trust!**
  - a. We do the wrong things all the time – we don't love Him with our whole hearts or love our neighbor like we should... and we're selfish and go our own way all the time.
  - b. But God knows what we're like and He sent Jesus to pay for our sins.

- i. God the Father sent God the Son to die on a cross in our place... the punishment we deserved was put on Jesus.
- c. And the only thing needed to get what Jesus did for you is believe Him... believe in the promise that He really is your Savior... and you will never die.
- d. Not only will you live forever, but when life is a huge struggle – you will always have a faith in God that overcomes the world and its troubles.

V. **The Holy Spirit is the promise of that gift...**

- a. Jesus said that He wouldn't be with us in person, but He would be sure to send a Helper – and that is what we celebrate besides your confirmation today – the Holy Spirit always helps us to see and trust in Jesus!
- b. The Holy Spirit will help you to keep growing in the Word... coming to the Lord's Supper... and remembering the gift of your Baptism.
- c. The Holy Spirit will help you to remember that Confirmation is NOT graduation – it is the beginning of what God will do to build you into a lifelong Christian.
- d. Here's the best part... God takes all the broken parts of us and builds something beautiful.
  - i. You are a redeemed child of God – and even when you fall (which will happen like it does for all of us) God is always there to bring you home when you turn from that brokenness and seek His forgiveness.
  - ii. Even the brokenness can be changed into something different by God – and I will be giving each of you a cross to remind you of that.
  - iii. All the broken glass that makes up this cross is a picture of our lives... not perfect, and sometimes we struggle with our faith or making the right choices... but as we trust in the Lord with all our hearts, He builds you up into something beautiful.
- e. None of you have to go alone... none of you have to trust in yourselves... God loves you so much that He was even willing to give His life to call you His own.
- f. Allow Him to guide you – trust Him fully – and remember, this is just the beginning of a long journey with the Lord as the builder of your life. Amen

