

**Title: Look What God Has Done Through His People**

**Text: Various**

## **Introduction**

Angie and I have had the privilege of serving Allendale Baptist Church Since March of 2014. While I have been in full-time ministry for 24 years, this past July, ABC is my first Senior Pastorate. In that time, we have seen God move in tremendous ways. Frankly, it is humbling to me. I am grateful to watch Him work.

When we came, there were about 35-40 people, \$50,000 in the building fund, and a plot of land on M45. I told the elders at the time that we either needed to sell that land or build upon it.

We opted for the later and formed a building committee in 2015. I still remember the meeting we had, led by Brian Sinnott, where he had a dream about what we needed and even wanted in a building. I don't think any of us thought God would provide us with this. But, as we quote every week from Ephesians 3:20-21, "He is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think."

The first big gift came in from George Myer, a long-time member of ABC. I only knew George in his diminished, Alzheimer-inflicted state. He had no idea who I was. But a long time ago, George and his wife, who had no children, decided to give their estate to ABC because they wanted to see a building for this church. \$390,000 later, George unwittingly kickstarted our hope for a building.

Over the intervening years, God has brought through his people, work, dedication, in kind giving, and a lot of money to see this project move from a dream to the building you are sitting in this morning. Whether you gave \$1 or \$100,000 dollars, God used it all for this project. It was never about equal giving; it was about equal sacrifice.

We still owe some money on this building (around \$550,000), but I figure if God can bring in 3.4 million through his people. He can clean this up in no time. Maybe even this year?

It wasn't just our people that came up with this money. God moved in the hearts of those from outside this church family, to help make this building a reality.

I have a dear friend and his family foundation giving nearly \$400,000 to this project. A former kid from my youth group and his wife gave us the custom cabinetry you see throughout this building (including my desk and bookshelves). And the Lasko foundation has contributed \$871,000 (one of the larger grants they have awarded).

God moved in the hearts of our people, and he moved in the hearts of those outside this body to accomplish something greater than we could have dreamed possible. "He is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think."

So, we have a beautiful new building. Now what? Where do we go from here?

Well, that leads to the main thought I have for you this morning.

Don't ever forget, this building is not a museum for us to preserve, but an instrument to minister on behalf of our God. God has given us...

### **Main Idea: A Beautiful Tool for The Glory of God!**

You are the church; this is a building.

This room is not a sanctuary; you are.

You are the temple of God; this is a place where the people of God can gather to ascribe worship to the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

This is a hospital for the wounded and spiritually sick.

This is a place where lives get put back together by the Creator Himself.

This building is not a monument for us or a testimony of what we can accomplish if we put our minds to it.

This building is a reminder of the holy responsibility that you and I must reach the lost, disciple them, and show them how they can glorify God with their lives.

This leads to the first point I want to share with you this morning.

### **1. God Gets All the Glory! (Ephesians 3:20-21)**

*Ephesians 3:20–21 (ESV) <sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

**Please notice the progression in this text.**

1. God is able – powerful – to accomplish seemingly impossible things.
2. God accomplishes these seemingly impossible things through HIS power in US!
3. God receives the recognition, not us.
4. This happens ad infinitum.

Application – You and I are to give God recognition for what He accomplishes by the power at work in us.

This means we work and work hard, strengthened by him, with no expectation of recognition, but joyfully giving Him all the glory

**Review** – This Building is a Beautiful Tool for the Glory of God

- God Gets All the Glory!

## 2. Be Careful Not To Steal His Glory

There are two men in the Bible that were glory stealers. They accepted the recognition that was due to God alone. We will take a brief look at both of them. And maybe learn something.

### **Daniel 4:28–33 (ESV)**

*<sup>28</sup> All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>29</sup> At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, <sup>30</sup> and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” <sup>31</sup> While the words were still in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, <sup>32</sup> and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” <sup>33</sup> Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles’ feathers, and his nails were like birds’ claws.*

### **Acts 12:18–25 (ESV)**

*<sup>18</sup> Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. <sup>19</sup> And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent time there. <sup>20</sup> Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king’s chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king’s country for food. <sup>21</sup> On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. <sup>22</sup> And the people were shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!” <sup>23</sup> Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. <sup>24</sup> But the word of God increased and multiplied. <sup>25</sup> And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.*

Application – First and foremost, we must remember –

### **1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)**

*<sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

**A Private Litany of Humility** by Rafael, Cardinal Merry Del Val, 1865–1930

*From the desire of being praised, deliver me, Jesus.*

*From the desire of being honored, deliver me, Jesus.*

*From the desire of being preferred, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of being consulted, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of being approved, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the desire of comfort and ease, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being humiliated, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being criticized, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being passed over, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being forgotten, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being lonely, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of being hurt, deliver me, Jesus.  
From the fear of suffering, deliver me, Jesus.  
That others may be loved more than I,  
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.  
That others may be chosen, and I set aside,  
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.  
That others may be praised and I unnoticed,  
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.  
O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like yours.  
O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, strengthen me with your Spirit.  
O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, teach me your ways.  
O Jesus, meek and humble of heart,  
help me put my self-importance aside  
to learn the kind of cooperation with others  
that makes possible the presence of your Abba's household. Amen.*

**Review** – This Building is a Beautiful Tool for the Glory of God

- God Gets All the Glory!
- Be Careful Not To Steal His Glory!

### **3. We Must Use This Place for His Glory!**

Say what you will about Solomon, but when he dedicated the temple he built, he purposed to glorify God

#### **2 Chronicles 6:12–21 (ESV)**

*<sup>12</sup> Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands. <sup>13</sup> Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the court, and he stood on it. Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven, <sup>14</sup> and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on*

earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, <sup>15</sup> who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. <sup>16</sup> Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk in my law as you have walked before me.’ <sup>17</sup> Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David. <sup>18</sup> “But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built! <sup>19</sup> Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you, <sup>20</sup> that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. <sup>21</sup> And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

### **2 Chronicles 6:40 (ESV)**

<sup>40</sup> Now, O my God, let your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayer of this place.

### **2 Chronicles 7:1–3 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD’s house. <sup>3</sup> When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

If you understand the purpose of the temple, it was used as a place to glorify God. So, it must be said of this place.

No one person, including myself, should be glorified with this building. This place, whether in its construction or future ministry ahead, is never to be a platform for a personality! This is God’s building to be used for His purposes and fame.

### **We Must Use This Place for His Glory!**

As a point of application....I’d like all the Elders, Deacons, and those involved on the Building Committee, both past, and present, to join me on the platform.

## **THE SERVICE OF DEDICATION**

The people standing and all joining in the responses.

**Pastor:**

To the glory of God, our Father, by whose favor we have built this house;  
To the honor of Jesus, the Christ, the son of the living God, our Lord and Savior;  
To the praise of the Holy Spirit, source of light and life;

**People:**

We dedicate this house.

**Pastor:**

For worship in prayer and song;  
For the ministry of the Word;  
For the celebration of the Holy Ordinances.

**People:**

We dedicate this house.

**Pastor:**

For comfort to those that mourn;  
For Strength to those that are tempted;  
For help in right living;

**People:**

We dedicate this house.

**Pastor:**

For the sanctification of the family;  
For the guidance of childhood;  
For the salvation of all;

**People:**

We dedicate this house.

**Pastor:**

For aggression against evil;  
For fostering a love for God;  
For the promotion of His Word and Way;

**People:**

We dedicate this house.

**Pastor:**

For sympathy and fellowship with the needy;  
For brother and sisterhood with all people.  
For the essential unity of all believers in Jesus Christ.

**People:**

We dedicate this house.

**Pastor:**

For the building of character;  
For the giving of hope and courage to human hearts;  
For the teaching of morality, temperance, and justice;

**People:**

We dedicate this house.

**Pastor:**

For the missionary endeavor both home and abroad;  
For worldwide evangelism, until the Lord returns;  
For the training up and sending out of our own to reach the lost;

**People:**

We dedicate this house.

**Pastor:**

In grateful remembrance of all who have loved and served this church; with hearts tender for those who have gone on before us.

**People:**

We dedicate this house.

**Pastor and People:**

We, now, the people of this church and congregation, Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, remembering the sacrifices of the fathers, confessing that apart from them, our work could not be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worthy worship of God in this place and to the constant service of God here and in our beloved community.

And all of God's people said...Amen!

**Amazing Grace**

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear

And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come  
This grace that brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home

When we've been here ten thousand years  
Bright, shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun