

# From the Handbook for Business, the Bible

## # 38: Beware of labouring in vain

Let's talk about houses, specifically those that build them and those who supervise the build. Of course, the industry has been in the news a lot due to the collapse of so many companies at a huge cost to subbies, customers & staff; not to mention the pain of oo's of unfinished homes!

The current state of this industry gets me thinking, what's going on? While there are rising material costs, contract & staff issues, there is another factor, a Biblical principle missing, not just in the building game but in MOST businesses, including too many owned by Christians.

It might sound like I'm judging here but I believe it's time someone did because we should be the kings of business; going broke is not an option! But many have (including me)! **The Q is, why?**

**We have shared many business-building principles but what is the ONE referred to?**

More than a principle, it should be the core of our lives - **Psalm 127:1a**, "*Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it...*" ['house' - business, career, marriage, ministry, etc]

The saying goes: *Little is much if God is in it; much is nothing if God is not in it!* So, the nub of the problem is, God isn't invited to be involved; owners do it alone and that is pride.

**Here are 3 examples to consider:**

- 1. My story:** In 2009-10 I joined a partnership that seemed to have great potential but too late I realised God was not in it. Twice He impressed on me to get out and twice, I ignored that still small voice. Later it went belly-up & we lost bigtime, although great lessons were learned.
- 2. King Solomon:** He built a vast business empire but, in the end, concluded it was all vanity because although God was with him at the start, He was quickly ignored as Solomon did his own thing, finally near his life's end, he realised, "*all is vanity*" (Ecclesiastes 1:2)
- 3. George Muller:** with no money, he set out to prove God would be as faithful as he ever had been. George supervised the building of five Bristol orphanages in the 1830's & ran them for decades with no money and no requests for money; in faith, he prayed in every penny!

**The point?** In that venture I laboured in vain as did Solomon; George laboured, but not in vain

**Q:** How many Christian business owners are labouring in vain today? That is, going it alone without much input, blessing or direction from the ultimate business owner! **A:** Way too many!

**What can business owners do to avoid labouring in vain?**

***I believe our brothers & sisters in Christ can sense what they need to do, such things as...***

...**Go back** to basics like George did: pray, seek God's will & stand on the truth of His Word

...**Confirm** you're calling into this business, honouring the caller; if not, re-assess your future

...**Disentangle** your heart & mind from the world's ways that subtly turn you away from God

...**Refocus** your business purpose from an asset for your glory to a ministry for His glory

...**Apply** 2 key Biblical principles of life: communicate **love** & display the **fruit** of the Spirit.

**Counsel:** There are no words I can add to our theme for today other than reiterate **Psalm 127:1**, "*Unless the LORD builds your business, you will labour in vain building it...*"