

The Reformation brought in a plain, even severe, style of church, built for the preaching of God's Word.

In such a church, innocent of carpet or cushion, stove or organ, the preachers of Puritan times delivered their discourses and there the people shivered in winter or sweltered in summer, as the case might be.

Thus we have two possible extremes before us in building. On the one hand the gorgeous cathedral, and on the other, the plain and sometimes uncomfortable meeting house.

It is a foregone conclusion that our object to-day in building is to secure a place for the preaching of God's Word. For this a simple structure is best, but while simple it should also be substantial. No "daubing with untempered mortar" should be allowed in church building. It should be well lighted and heated, have adequate ventilation and good acoustic properties. In a word the church house should be as well furnished and provided for as the homes of the people.

Where shall we build ?

In choosing a site much difficulty is often experienced. Avoid partyism. Take as a rule and motto "the greatest good to the greatest number."

How shall we raise funds ?

By subscriptions from our people, adherents and friends. Start on a business basis. Let everything be above board. Use no doubtful means to secure money. True it is that "the altar sanctifies the gift," but not every gift.

Finally, build for God, and with God. Let us remember with Smeaton, the builder of Eddystone lighthouse, "except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build." Ps. 127.

The trial day is coming when the untempered mortar shall be exposed and the wood, hay and stubble of church building be reduced to ashes by the Judgment fires.

Respectfully submitted.

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