

GOD, THE FORGOTTEN FACTOR

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it"
(Psalm 127:1a).

We live in days of tremendous needs for building. Families desire to build homes; nations, to build better living conditions for their citizens; statesmen, to build a new world. And each one wants to build into his project those features which will make it most worthwhile.

Now in the plans for this building, one must take many factors into account. A friend of mine wanted to build a house. For weeks he pored over drafts and blue-prints until finally the desired plan was selected. But he had overlooked an important factor. The zoning laws of his neighborhood required that the house be set a certain distance from the street—^father back than he had figured. When this was done a room which projected from the side of his house almost met a similar projection from the house next door. This meant insufficient light and privacy for both houses. One minor factor forgotten resulted in discomfort and inconvenience for two families.

At one time I lived in a city which was growing rapidly but exhibited an appalling lack of careful planning. Frequently one would see a street which had recently been paved and looked like a splendid addition to the town. A few days later one might find representatives of the water department digging up the new street in order to lay water mains beneath it. An essential factor had been overlooked, and as a result the street was in very poor condition shortly after it had been paved.

Thus, in planning our lives it is vital that we take all the factors into consideration. Omission of one factor may easily lead to disaster. The verse heading this meditation points to such a factor — one stressed from the beginning to the end of the Bible. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." The power and control of God cannot be left out of account,