

A Builder or a Wrecker?

Life is full of choices. You don't have to live very long to discover that truth. I am constantly reminded of a work, *The Road Not Taken*, by one of my favorite poets, Robert Frost.

It's familiar to most of us, because it was always taught in English literature classes. I won't quote all of it, but here are a couple of verses:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood ... And sorry I could not travel both ... And be one traveler, long I stood ... And looked down one as far as I could ... To where it bent in the undergrowth.

I shall be telling this with a sigh ... Somewhere ages and ages hence ... Two roads diverged in a wood, and I ... I took the one less traveled by ... And that has made all the difference.

What prompted my revisit of this magnificent piece by Frost? Well, it wandered back into my head after running across another poem with a powerful message. It was written by Carmelo Benvegar, of Baltimore, Maryland, and first published in 1967 under the pseudonym Charles Benvegar:

Build or Wreck

*I watched them tearing a building down,
A gang of men in a busy town.
With a ho-heave-ho and lusty yell,
They swung a beam and a sidewall fell.*

*I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,
As the men you'd hire if you had to build?"
He gave me a laugh and said, "No indeed!
"Just common labor is all I need.*

*"I can easily wreck in a day or two
What builders have taken a year to do."
And I thought to myself as I went my way,
Which of these two roles have I tried to play?*

*Am I a builder who works with care,
Measuring life by the rule and square?
Am I shaping my deeds by a well-made plan,
Patiently doing the best I can?*

*Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,
Content with the labor of tearing down?*

(more)

The poem prompts sober reflection: Which side are we on? Which road are we taking?

In our professions, Life Care and Century Park, we are called to be builders – to build positive and meaningful relationships, to build trust with the patients, residents and families we serve, to help build the careers of those we lead, to build important bridges with the general and health-care communities of which we are a part.

Yes, we are builders. But make no mistake: Along the way, we will encounter those who have chosen a different road, whose lives seem intent on wrecking instead of building up.

Let's stay firm in the road we have chosen. It is the correct one.

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing (1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter

