

Building: The Church / Cor. 3.9-23

Last Week: Looked at the Growing Church, and what elements are present: diversity of ministry, unity of purpose, and humility of spirit.

The Right Foundation (verses 10-11):

1. Corinthians had changed their foundation. No longer Christ, but the personality. Paul's focus, foundation was proclaiming Jesus alone.
2. Some churches today look to make themselves "seeker friendly". Or they will develop something else to bring the people to worship service.
3. For Right Foundation – ask: "What is the purpose of the church?" Social club, or the instrument of God for proclaiming the Gospel. **Why gather on Sunday Morning?** To encourage each other, to be admonished by the Word, and proclaim the Lord's Death until his return. Other words: *recharge for the week ahead* to go and proclaim Jesus Christ to the lost world around us.

The Right Material (verses 12-17):

1. Once we set on the right foundation, then next question is: "What do we use to build?" Paul uses a list of 6 items: Gold, silver, jewels, then wood, hay and straw. 3 are hard to come by. 3 are common. 3 are beautiful to look at, 3 are not. 3 can withstand trials of all kinds, 3 will fuel the fire.
2. To us: What are we willing to invest? Not Money – But Attitude. Is the purpose something we give thought, give energy to? Or is our attitude, come on Sunday, do my duty to God, and live the rest of the week not thinking about spreading the News of Jesus?
3. Can be similar to Cain and Abel. Abel's first thoughts were of God. Cain's thoughts of God were afterthoughts. He gave *some*.
4. Our attitudes are the building materials. When trials come, what we used will be plain as day.
5. Remember, this is about building the unified body of Christ, though verses 16-17 are used about individual bodies, for Lev 18 & 1 Pet 2 are more appropriate for caring for one's own body. Paul's warning is what God will do to those who tear down the Church family.
6. Corinthians making about celebrities. But Church in Colorado Springs, Minister comes out, ½ church left, rest tossed the Bible.

The Right Plans (verses 18-20):

1. Again, we are reminded by Paul that the church is different from world.
2. World may say, pack it in, close the doors. But God's church operates by prayer, power and providence of God. As long as we here are here, then by God's power, for His Glory, this body has a tomorrow.

The Right Motives (verses 21-23):

1. For whose glory do we operate? Paul reminds the Corinthians and us once again that its not who we follow, men wise. It's about whose we are.
2. As body of Christ, we have all we need. We also have one another. I am yours. You are mine. We belong to Christ, equally. Christ belongs to God.

9-11 For we are God's co-workers. You are God's field, God's building.

According to God's grace that was given to me, as a skilled master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds on it. But each one must be careful how he builds on it, because no one can lay any other foundation than what has been laid—that is, Jesus Christ.

12-17 If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, each one's work will become obvious, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, it will be lost, but he will be saved; yet it will be like an escape through fire. Don't you know that you are God's sanctuary and that the Spirit of God lives in you? If anyone ruins God's sanctuary, God will ruin him; for God's sanctuary is holy, and that is what you are.

18-20 No one should deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks he is wise in this age, he must become foolish so that he can become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, since it is written: He catches the wise in their craftiness—and again, The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are futile.

21-23 So no one should boast in men, for all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come—all are yours, and you belong to Christ, and Christ to God.