

I Corinthians 3: 10-15 Working On A Building 10/27/2024

Intro: Versailles Wedding Hall- Talpiot, Jerusalem, May 24, 2001

Corinth had money, culture and prestige just because of its location, but will the work done on the good foundation of Christ stand the test coming?

Paul has laid a good foundation there, but he sees a triple threat to the superstructure:

1. Division 2. Immoralities 3. False Teachings

These will not stand up to the test!

Text: I Corinthians 3: 10-15 *****

3:10 Architekton = (ἀρχιτέκτων) "Master Builder" / Tekton= "to build" / arch= "highest"

Question: What is being built here? The body of Christ and strong individual members that make it up.

Ephesians 2:19-22 A similar analogy by Paul. A building being fitted together.

I Peter 2:4-5 An analogy by Peter about building stones.

Ephesians 4:11-16 Another analogy by Paul about growing up individually and collectively, cooperatively. Special emphasis on growing together.

Hebrews 10:23-25. In all of these verses, there is no such thing as a lone ranger Christian. There is no concept of growth apart from the whole in the New Testament.

If there was anyone of whom it might be said that he could make it alone, it would be Paul, Right? WRONG!

I Corinthians 2:3 " I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling."

He could have left that part out and just taught the Corinthians as a distant dispenser of information. His own spiritual health depended on submission to the other members of the body of Christ. In our culture we pretend we can make it fine, all on our own, and promote an image that reeks of dishonesty and pride. We must be interdependent with each other to grow properly.

3:13 "each man's work" - Our contribution to the whole by the development of godly character. Stronger the parts; the stronger the whole.

3:11 The work of Christ is the foundation. You must follow the lines laid down. Don't build out over the foundation too far or there will be no base support.

Ex. Cantilever porch structure. 1/3 tied back into the foundations strength.

Ex. Seattle Space Needle- Concrete 30' deep and 120' across! Took 467 cement trucks to fill it in a day. The largest continuous concrete pour ever attempted in the West. 230 metric tons of reinforcement steel in that slab. That is the same amount of metal that makes up all the above-ground structure itself! 605' tall. Can withstand a Cat 5 hurricane. Center of gravity is just 5 feet above the ground!

All the work we do must clearly and firmly refer back to the foundation.

Many use the name of Jesus Christ in their organization, but are not built on the person, work, and character of Christ. Without discipleship, it becomes easy to drift away from the foundation.

3: 12-15 Paul is contrasting two things here, not 6 items.

The strong and durable- Gold, silver, stones

The weak and temporary- Wood, hay, straw

God is a consuming fire that test the hearts of men. The earlier the test the better. Count it a blessing when God test you before the final test. Then you can begin to build on a solid relationship with Christ, instead of something that counts for nothing, even if it sounds religious. The quality of your life will be tested!

QUESTION: What should we do? One Application; Consider what God wants to *take out of your life* and what God wants to *put into your life*.

No one can live a happy, confident, purposeful life without being tied closely to Christ! Without periodic testing, *you live in fear*, wondering if you are going the right way.

There is a *right way* to come through a test and a wrong way. Don't worry if you blow a test, plenty more coming. I love the second chances!

Ex. Dr. Bell- Daily non-credit test. One big 4- hour- test at the end. Your entire grade depends on that one test. He knew how well he taught, and that many avoided taking his classes and thereby miss an opportunity of a lifetime.

3: 14-15 "as through fire" We might say, "By the skin of his teeth." A saved Baby Huey!
Taking the easy way is not the easy way!