

CHURCH UNDER CONSTRUCTION

1Cor: 3:10-15

“But let each one take heed how he builds.”

Carefulness as to *“where we build”* (v11)

Jesus said to Peter, *“Upon this Rock I shall built my church.”* If we don’t get that straight; we build in vain. The apostle Paul would never fail to say that Jesus Christ our Lord is the one “true foundation” of the Church.

In Isaiah 28:16, we read, *“Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation.”*

The foundation of the church has already been tested, and has passed all tests. Jesus is that proven, priceless, permanent, secure foundation.

Carefulness as to *“how we build”* (v10)

Our works are to be actuated and activated by the Holy Spirit. Paul, unlike the Corinthians, placed no confidence at all in the flesh or natural ability.

Paul knew firsthand, that when he approached God’s work with fear, trembling and in weakness, that a demonstration of the Spirit’s power would be present in his preaching.

We must not rely on intellectual power, or soulish power, but rely only on spiritual power. Only spiritual power can obtain spiritual effects.

To build effectively and build well, the Christian worker must be found doing the *work* of the Lord, in accordance with the *word* of the Lord, in obedience to the *will* of the Lord, while he is engaged in the *warfare* of the Lord, offering *worship* to the Lord and *walking* in the *ways* of the Lord (*Alfred P. Gibbs*).

Carefulness as to *“what we build with”* (v12)

The materials that we use fall into 2 categories (which are listed in descending order of worth).

The first category — Gold, silver, and costly stones represent high-quality, indestructible, materials. They are of great value. They add strength and stateliness to the building. These materials conform to God's building code.

The second category — Wood, hay, and straw represent inferior and inflammable materials. They are of incredibly less worth. They give the building no special splendour. These materials do not conform to God's building code.

The first, gold, symbolizes the greatest faithfulness, the most skilled and careful work done for the Lord. The last, which is stubble or straw symbolizes the least, the left-over's for Christ (*John MacArthur*).

Carefulness as to "why we build" (v13)

"The motive why we do something is just as important as what we are doing. Anything done by force is wood. But everything which is done in love is gold. Work that, on the surface looks like gold to us; may be hay in God's eyes. He knows "the motives of men's hearts." Motives can easily be swayed and become mixed motives. The motivations of our service to God should be strictly to see God getting the glory in all things" (*John MacArthur*).

So, as builders we have to be extremely careful, because there will come a day of reckoning. A day, when those associated with the foundation will be tested. That day is called, "The Day of Christ" (Phil.1:6).

Are your spiritual works fire-proof? Will they stand God's fire on the Day He judges us for the things we have done while in the body, whether good or bad? (2Cor.5:10) Or, will you be standing in knee-high ashes when the fire falls?

