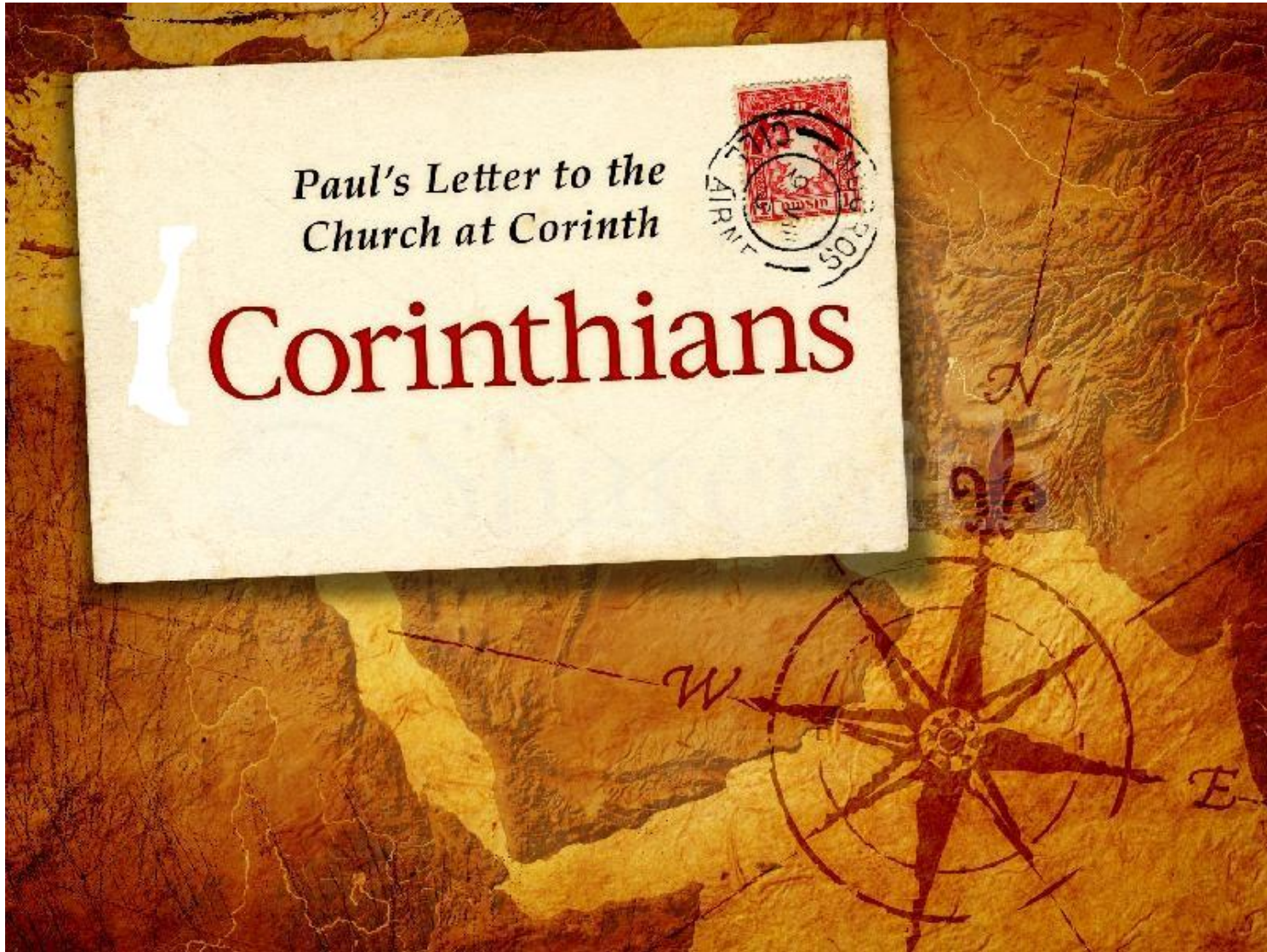


# 1 Cor. 3:10-11 Jesus Christ Is To Be the Foundation



# Today's Outline\*



The Problem of Division Addressed 1:13 to 4:21

Unity by Considering the Nature of True Wisdom 2:1-3:4

Unity by Considering the Nature of Christian Service 3:5-4:21

a. The Worker Is Only a Servant in the Hands of God 3:5-9

Paul and Apollos in Relationship to the Corinthians 3:5

A Principle Stated 3:6

Some Conclusions Made 3:7-9

b. Service Will Be Rewarded in Accordance with Its Quality 3:10-17

The Foundation of the Church at Corinth 3:10-11

The Superstructure of the Church at Corinth 3:12-17

# Review



<sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? **Servants** through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one.

<sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but **God was causing the growth.**

<sup>7</sup> So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but **God who causes the growth.**

<sup>8</sup> Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

# Paul's Metaphors in Chapter 3

- verses 5 to 8 - **the sower**:

words used planted and watered



- A related metaphor is the idea of the sower and seed. where the seed = word of God
- The watering of the seed is the idea of teaching of the word of God.
- Even though the servant is planting and watering, it is God causing growth in the understanding of His word.
- Verse 9 is a transition verse: the picture of **the sower** to the picture of **the builder**.

# Paul's Metaphors in Chapter 3

- verses 10 to 12 – **the builder:**

words used builder and foundation



- These words refer to the teaching of the Word of God.
- Building on a secure foundation is shown in:

Matt 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these **words of Mine and acts on them**, may be compared to a wise man who **built** his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on **the rock**. <sup>26</sup> "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who **built** his house on **the sand**. <sup>27</sup> "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall."

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building



for – *gar* - indeed

we are God's fellow workers

we - Paul and the other teachers (Apollos, Cephas etc.)

are - *eimi* – the state in which someone continuously exists (present tense)

fellow workers - *synergos* - denotes “a worker with” - a work together under God’s direction

- verse 7-8a describes how this is to work in practice

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.



7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.<sup>8a</sup> Now he who plants and he who waters are one.

- We are the branches (or conduit) of the word of God.
- All the nutrition of God's Word comes from God and not the planter or the waterer.

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.



Now, this is how God's sees the church at Corinth.

1<sup>st</sup> - you are God's field

you – the church at Corinth; are – *eimi* – cont. exists

field - *geōrgion* – land under cultivation (by God's fellow workers)

2<sup>nd</sup> - you are God's building (church at Corinth)

building - *oikodomē* - of a local church as a spiritual building



# Today's Verses



<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

<sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.



like a wise master builder

like – or as wise – *sophos* - believers endowed with spiritual and practical wisdom

master builder - *architektōn* - (Eng., "architect") is used figuratively in laying the foundation of the local church. Vine

1 Cor 2:1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.



## I laid a foundation

I – Paul

**laid** - *tithēmi* - to put, place, set, to lay  
- laying a foundation metaphorically, of Christ in relation to an assembly - (past point fact)

**foundation** - *themelios* - metaphorically used of elementary doctrine and instruction; of a fundamental doctrine or principle, e.g., Christ



<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.



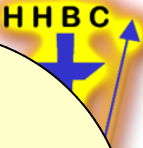
According to the grace of God which was given to me  
according to - *kata* – according to a norm or standard

- the standard here is “the grace of God”
- Grace is the unlimited and unmerited blessings from God based on the totally adequate work of Christ on the cross.

McCalley

having been given - *didōmi* -spoken of God or of Christ as the author or source of what one has or receives - passive

# 10 According to the grace of God which was given



**Eph 3:8** To me, the very least of all saints,  
this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles  
the unfathomable riches of Christ,

**Rom 12:3** For through the grace given to me I say to  
everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than  
he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment,  
as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

**Rom 12:6** Since we have gifts that differ according to the  
grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*:  
if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

**2 Cor 12:9** And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient  
for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly,  
therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that  
the power of Christ may dwell in me.

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.



## According to the grace of God which was given to me

- God's grace in founding the church at Corinth
- But in the larger picture Paul was the recipient of God's grace during his entire ministry.
- This phrase tell us that Paul laid the foundation according to God's grace that was given to him.
- Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.



## and another is building on it

- in God's building program there is not rivalry but cooperation
- **another** is the word "*allos*" which means another of the same kind – i.e. the same kind as Paul
- The one building on the foundation has the same "grace of God" as Paul was given
- Paul will now give a warning concerning how he builds on the foundation.

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.



But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

each man – or each one

must be careful - *blepō* - metaphorically, to look to, direct the mind upon, consider, take heed

- Eph 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise.

how he builds on it - to build upon, to erect a superstructure  
(present tense – continuous action)

- Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.



<sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.



For no one is able to lay another foundation beside the one being laid who is Jesus Christ.

Interlinear

**subj:** no one – not even one

**verb:** is able - *dynamai* - to have power, whether by virtue of one's own ability and resources

**direct object:** to lay another foundation

**to lay** – *tithēmi* - to put, place, set, frequently signifies to lay; particularly a foundation - Luke 6:48; 14:29

**another-** *allos* – another of the same kind

<sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.



For no one is able to lay another foundation beside the one being laid who is Jesus Christ. Interlinear

**beside** – *para* - Greek preposition *para*, which conveys two ideas. First, it carries the idea of substitution. Second, it carries the idea of addition. McCalley

- There is no substitute for the person of Christ, and there is to be no addition to the person of Christ. McCalley

**being laid** - keimai - to be laid, as a foundation (passive)  
God is preforming the action!

<sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.



For no one is able to lay another foundation beside the one being laid who is Jesus Christ. Interlinear

which foundation is a person, Jesus Christ Wuest

- only the foundation of Jesus Christ can exist in God's building
- note the foundation is a person, Jesus Christ
- 1 Peter 2:6b Behold, I lay in Zion a Stone, one chosen out, a Cornerstone, highly honored and precious, and the one who rests his faith on Him shall positively not be disappointed. Wuest

# Final Thoughts



## **15. On the Rock, Christ Jesus. (Chafer's Systematic Theology)**

In the consideration of divine grace as exercised in behalf of the lost, it is essential, as in other matters of similar import, to distinguish between the foundation and the superstructure.

In the parable of the two houses - one built upon the rock and one built upon the sand - Christ made no reference to the superstructure, but rather emphasized the importance of the foundation.

The smallest edifice built on the rock will endure the tests which try foundations, and only because the rock endures.