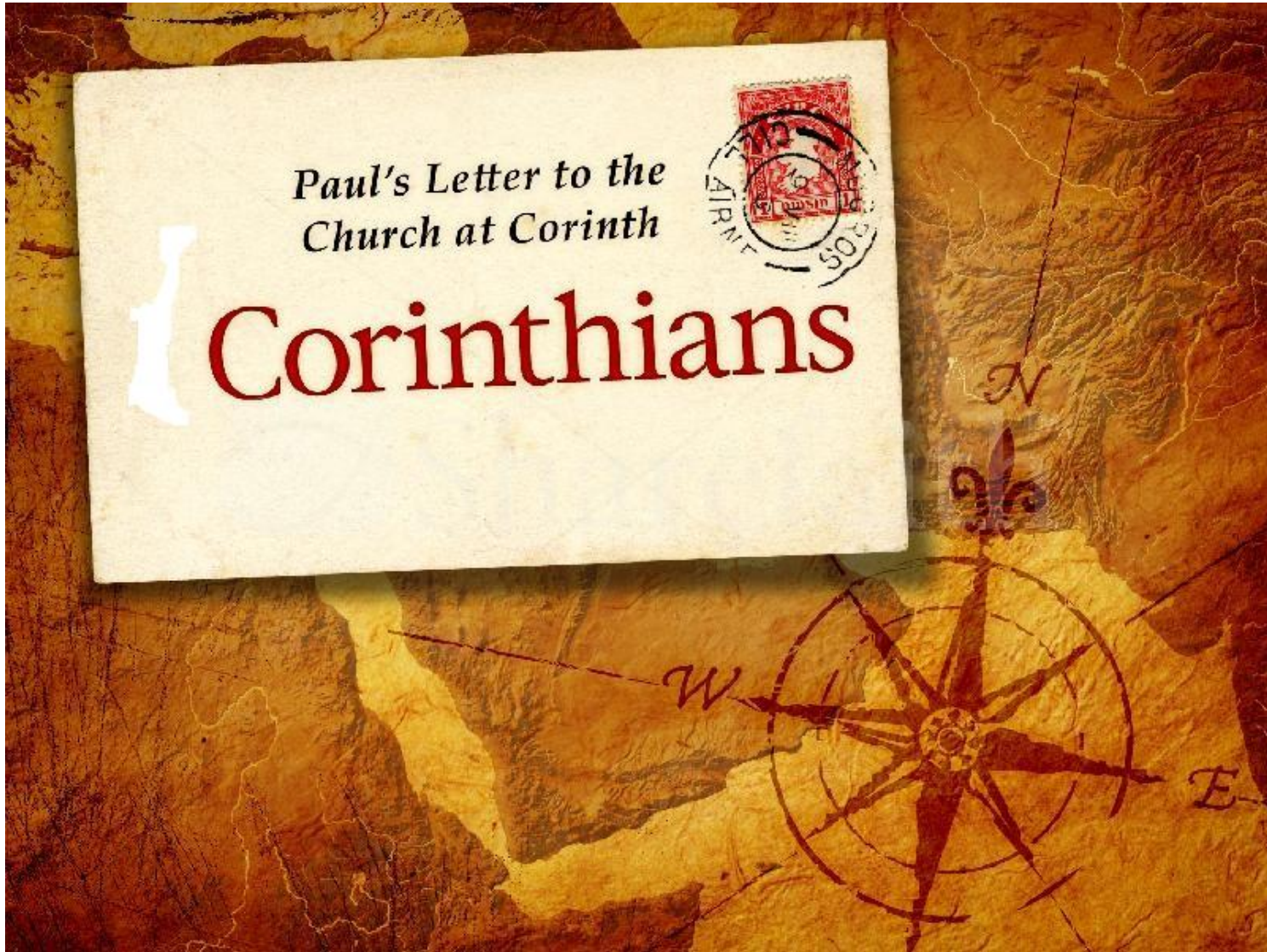


1 Cor. 3:12-14 Superstructure of the Church at Corinth



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

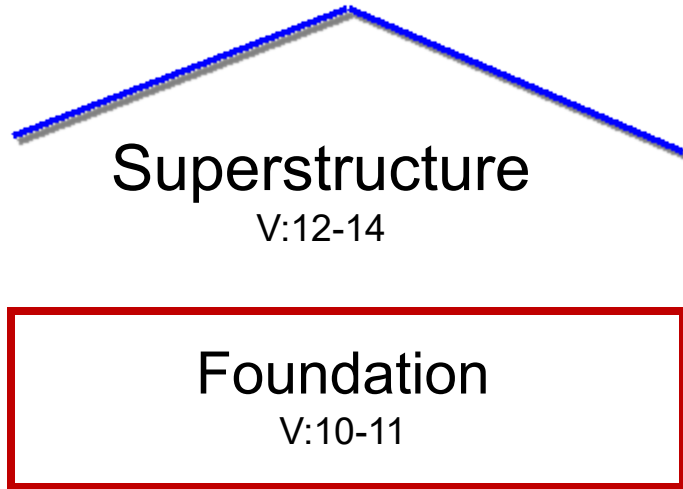
b. Service Will Be Rewarded in Accordance with Its Quality 3:10-17

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

The Superstructure of the Church at Corinth 3:12-14

The Warning to the Church at Corinth 3:15-17

God's Building



- Only one kind of foundation is possible in God's building.
- The superstructure can only be built from certain materials.
- The materials must be tested by fire.

Last Week's Verses



¹⁰ 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.

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

¹⁰ 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 (Paul) **laid a foundation**

laid - *tithēmi* - laying a foundation metaphorically, of Christ in relation to the church (past point fact)



foundation - *themelios* - metaphorically of a fundamental doctrine or principle, e.g., Christ
like a wise master builder (1st modifier)

master builder - *architektōn* - (Eng., "architect") is used in laying the foundation of the local church
Vine
1 Cor 2:1 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

¹⁰ 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

(2nd Modifier)

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 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 was given to Paul in founding the church at Corinth.
- Paul was the recipient of God's grace in laying the foundation.
- Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.

¹⁰ 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 (a follow on action)

- in God's building program there's 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 - gospel
- Paul will now give a warning concerning how one is to build on the foundation.

¹⁰ 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. -Warning

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.

¹¹ 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 the power or ability
to lay – *tithēmi* - to put, place, set,

another- *allos* – another of the same kind (as Christ)

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* – passive - God is performing the action at the church in Corinth.

¹¹ 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

What is your foundation?



- The important truth to be recognized at this point is that, while the unsaved build upon the sand, all Christians are standing and building on the Rock, Christ Jesus.
 - They are thus secure with respect to salvation through the merit of Christ, apart from their own worthiness or faithfulness.
 - It is clearly stated by this object lesson that Christ is the Foundation on which the Christian stands and on which he builds.
 - To be taken off the sand foundation and to be placed on the enduring Rock which is Christ, constitutes one of the richest treasures of divine grace.
- Chafer

Today's Verses



- ¹² Now if any man builds on the foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
- ¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.
- ¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

¹² Now if any man builds on the foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
now if any man builds on the foundation



if – assumed to be true

any man - *tis* – anyone (including Paul and Apollos)

builds - *epoikodomeō* - to build upon, to erect a
superstructure (1 Cor. 3:10, 12, 14; Eph. 2:20)

on - *epi* - upon

the foundation:

- “the” tells us that this is a particular foundation
- from v:9 the foundation is a person, Jesus Christ
- next the quality of the superstructure will be addressed

¹² Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,



with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

- the six materials fall into two categories
 - gold, silver, precious stones
 - wood, hay, straw
- is the value of the material the difference?
- v:14-15 dictates that the distinction is between consumable materials and non-consumable materials
- one stands the fire test; the other does not

McCalley

The contrast between these sets of materials



- building with gold, silver and precious stones:

This is a work God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in it and by faith and trust in Christ we do walk in this work.

- building with wood, hay, straw:

This is a work that God did not prepare beforehand but we have decided that this work will please God so we do it in our own power and strength.

¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.



each man's work will become evident

the work of each one will become manifest Interlinear

subj: work - *ergon* - labor for Christ as the spreading of His gospel and the furthering of His Church

verb: will become – future tense

direct object: manifest - *phaneros* - open to sight, visible

- The true quality of each man's work will now be open to sight!
- This is a revealing of a man's works not his character.

¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.



for the day will show it

the day – what day is this?

This is a reference to the day [or that day] when the believer will stand before God and give an account of the stewardship of his or her life at Christ's judgment seat.

Constable

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.



will show it - *dēloō* - to make plain; of things future or hidden, to reveal, show, bring to light

- This is the second word used to express things being made visible.
- Christ will show believers on “that day” the quality of their work.
- We are told of the time and the event that will reveal the quality of service to the Lord. Quality is not revealed now but at the return of Christ. McCalley

¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.



1st because it is revealed with fire (how it's accomplished)

it is revealed - *apokalyptō* - to make manifest or reveal a thing previously secret or unknown

- Fire won't hurt the first three on the list. Actually, the fire purifies gold, silver, and precious stones. McGee
- Because it will be made clear as to its identity by means of one of its attributes, namely, fire. Wuest

¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.



2nd and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work

will test - *dokimázō* – a test with a view to approval; put to the proof, examine, e.g., by fire

1 Peter 1:7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

- And the fire itself will put each person's work to the test for the purpose of approving it to determine what sort of work it is as to quality.

Wuest

14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.



if any man's work which he has built on it remains

if – assumed to be true

man's – anyone's work – *ergon*

remains – *memo* - endures

assuming that the work of anyone which he has built upon it endures in that it has met these specifications Wuest

he will receive a reward

Rev 4:10 The twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne.

Final Thoughts



- In this passage, the believer who is once-for-all established on the Rock, Christ Jesus, is said to be building on that Rock either of materials that are subject to burning by fire or of materials which are purified by fire.
- There is no reference here to "character building" since Christian character, under the economy of grace, is produced in the child of God as a fruit of the indwelling Spirit. It is the believer's works or service which he is building, that are in view. These are the works foreordained that he should walk in them (Eph. 2:10). Chafer