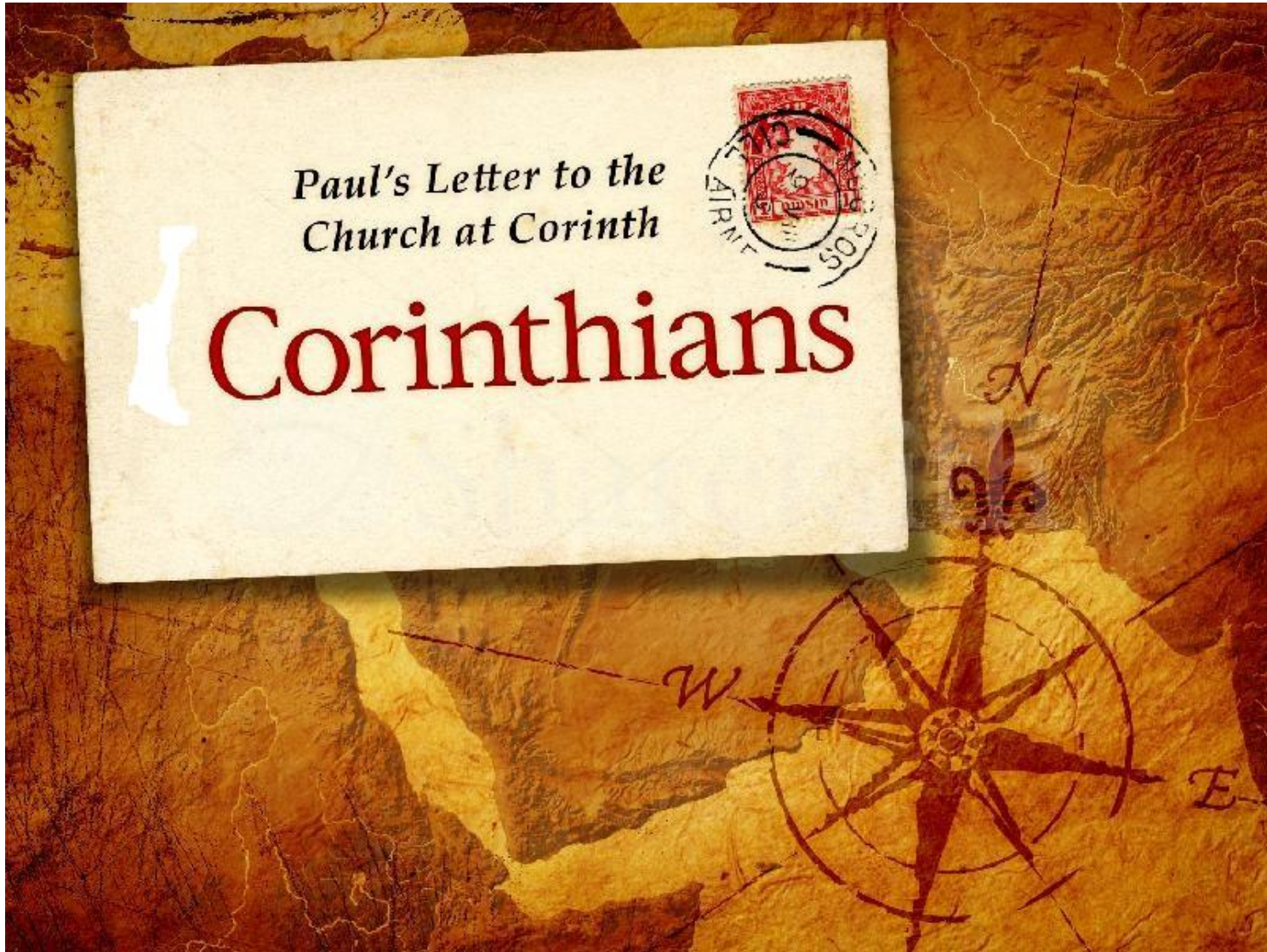


1 Cor. 3:16-17 The Local Church Is the Temple of God



Today's Outline*



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

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

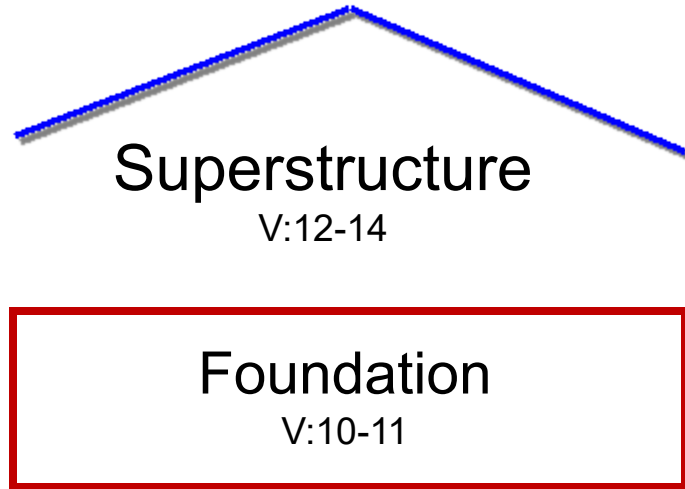
The Foundation of the Church at Corinth 3:10-11

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

The Quality of Each Man's Work Will Be Judged 3:12-15

The Local Church Is the Temple of God 3:16-17

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.
- Also another name for this is God's temple.

The foundation in God's building is Jesus Christ



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.²⁵ "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**.

- The wise man is one who hears Christ's words and acts on them.
- First, you hear Christ's words (you understand God's Word).
- Second, you act on them (you believe and trust in God's Word).
- By doing this you are compared to a wise man who built his house on the Rock.
- Your house did not fall because it was founded on the Rock.
- The Rock is speaking of Jesus Christ as your foundation.
- For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 3:11

The foundation in God's building is Jesus Christ



Matt 7:26 "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**.²⁷ "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall."

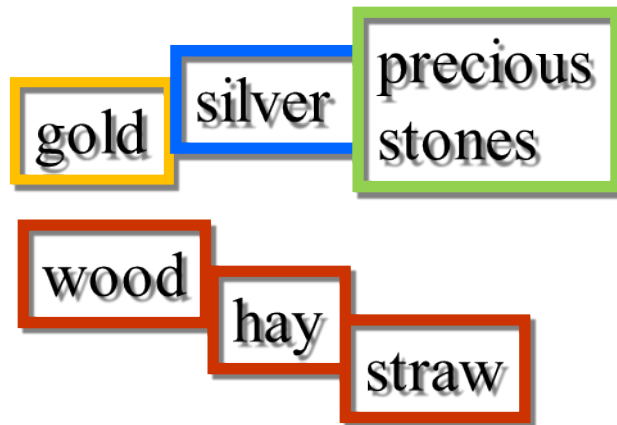
- The foolish man also hears Christ's words.
- You hear Christ's words (you understand God's Word).
- But you do not act on them (you do not believe in God's Word).
- By doing this you are compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand.
- Therefore your house fell because it was founded on the sand.
- The sand is speaking of the uncertainty of trusting in man and his wisdom as your foundation.
- You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Last Week'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.



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

on - *epi* - upon

the foundation:

- “the” tells us that this is a particular foundation
- from v:11 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.



1st because it is revealed with fire

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

2nd 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

- Paul's main point is to encourage building with quality materials that will meet with God's approval and receive eternal reward. Constable
- --- each man's praise will come to him from God - 1 Cor 4:5

Today's Verses



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

¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

¹⁷ If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

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; remains – endures, survives

from the previous verses:

- man builds with six materials
- materials revealed by fire
- materials tested by fire
- some materials remains - purified by fire
- some materials burned up by fire

The judgment of Christian service is likened to fire in which the gold and silver will stand the test and [the Christian will] receive a reward.

Chafer

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



he will receive a reward

reward - *misthós* - in the sense of reward to be received hereafter (future time)

1 Cor 3:8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Notice that we are not told what the reward will be. The reward is apparently found in the reality that one's work lasts [it is permanent].

McCalley

¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.



If any man's work is burned up

If – assumed to be true

man's (anyone's) work; burned up – consumed

he will suffer loss - *zēmioō* – to incur loss - passive voice

- the idea here is loss of rewards
- we will have less items of rewards

The context identifies those who suffer loss as being Christians who seek to build the church with materials that fail to withstand God's assessment.

Constable

15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.



but he himself will be saved,

sōzō - the spiritual and eternal salvation granted immediately by God to those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ

Vine

Acts 16:30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

yet so as through fire

But being saved thus, it will be as escaping destruction in the midst of the fire which burns up his works. Wuest

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

The pronoun *you* occurs 3 times and is plural each time.

therefore v16 would read:

Do you (**plural**) not know that you (**plural**) are a temple (**singular**) of God

and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you (**plural**)?

- you (plural) = the church at Corinth
- the church at Corinth is a temple (singular) of God
- the Spirit of God dwells in the church at Corinth
- He meant the collective body of believers that made up the local church as is clear from his use of the plural “you” in the Greek text and the singular “temple.” Constable

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

What kind of temple are we talking about?

temple - *naos* - a shrine or sanctuary: used of a physical structure, also metaphorically of Christ's body, of the local church, and each individual believer

- Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.



If any man destroys the temple of God,

If – assumed to be true

destroys - *phtheirō* - signifies "to destroy by means of corrupting," and so "bringing into a worse state" Vine

1 Cor 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

- If, as is the case, anyone morally corrupts the inner sanctuary [temple] of God. Wuest

¹⁷ If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.



How were they (Corinthians) destroying that temple?

They were destroying it by their dissension:

1 Cor 1:11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. ¹² Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."

McCalley

17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.



God will destroy (same word) him

this person God will bring to the place of ruin Wuest
[bringing into a worse state]

- We will see an example of this later in 1 Corinthians

for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are

- the temple of God is holy
- every believer is holy
- 1 Cor. 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

Final Thoughts



It cannot be too strongly emphasized that this judgment [Judgment Seat of Christ] is unrelated to the problem of sin, that it is more for the bestowing of rewards than for the rejection of failure; and it is clearly asserted in 1 Corinthians 4:5 that, in spite of all failure, every Christian man [and woman] shall have praise of God.

Chafer's Systematic Theology