

**"Our Works Revealed"**  
**1 Corinthians 3:10-23**  
**2/21/10; 3/23**  
**Jerry Grey WBC**

**Introduction #2:**

**Golf Illustration:** Individual game. You get out of it what you put into it. Many guys complain when they play poorly and I ask, "Why do you complain when you have not practiced?"

**No Swing Foundation**

Is it ridiculous to build a house without a foundation? It's fatal and silly to think that if you don't work at something you will get results that are pleasing.

Do you agree?

Businesses, families, hobbies, and churches all will fail without proper time, talents, involvement, and good old-fashioned hard work.

**Context:**

Paul has properly dealt with the issues of divisions in the church in respect to following mere men. Paul did this with agricultural metaphors – now he changes in verse 9 and following to architecture.

**Verse 6:** I planted the seed, Apollos watered, but God made it grow.

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

## **Psalms 127:1**

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that built it: except the LORD, keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

### **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. <sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will **not** last, but we do it to get a crown that **will** last forever. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. <sup>27</sup> No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Life is difficult. Our church and families and individual lives must be built on the right foundation. If not, it will not stand or prevail when tested. We will build lives that look like hovels instead of buildings. Are you building aimlessly or with a purpose? Are you beating the air?

Even godly people struggle in this world. If judgment begins in the household of God, where does the sinner stand?

**Read Text: 1 Corinthians 3:10-23**

#### **I. The Foundation verses 10-11**

- Everything starts with grace.

**Greek:** According to grace

"I laid" - It means to sink down to settle, ordain, purpose (tithemi 5087)

Now listen to me carefully. This passage explains why the church of Jesus Christ is so weak. Wimpy, self-centered Christians are getting blown around by every wind of doctrine because they don't get sunk down in a foundation.

Christians who don't know the bible. Emotional, self-centered, got my feeling hurt, nobody called me, nobody helped me, nobody spoke to me.

Listen, the church of Jesus Christ was built on a man's bloody sacrifice. As He gave, as He gave His life.

The church is here as an avenue for service and ministry not as a self-help center. We can't baby everybody. Sink in! Sink in! Sink in!

**Greek:            Foundation - A Substructure.**

You can't build a skyscraper on a chicken coup foundation.

**Illustration:**

At Plant Vogtle, they drove pilings and filled them with concrete so the reactor would not crack.

\* Many folk have spiritual voids in their lives due to neglect of foundational

\* Is this important?

Greek: Master builder – ESV – Skilled master builder.

Greek: αρχιτέκτων – English architect. (arché - rule, beginning)

A Chief Constructor.

If a man can't preach this, he ought to get out of the ministry!

\* The Christian, the church, the family all should be master builders when it comes to building Christian lives, homes and churches.

\* What does a master builder do?

1. He knows his trade.
2. He makes a plan.
3. He never changes mid-stream.
4. He obeys the rules of scientific architecture.
5. He educates himself.

\* Paul was an expert in church foundations. When this is the case, others can come along and build with you.

\* But we must be careful how we build.

\* Question – Can or is there anyone building on your foundation?

**Illustration:** Have you ever seen a good foundation fail because a man came along and began to build poorly?

**Verse 11:** The concrete and rebar in a foundation is Jesus Christ. He is the foundation of salvation. He unfortunately gets left out of the building process in the lives of so many.

They got hell insurance and now they think they can handle it from here.

Trust me – This is a tragic stance to take.

## **The Foundation Must Have These Things.**

1. True salvation experience.
2. Bible reading – Quiet time. Personal devotion.
3. Prayer
4. Fellowship – Accountability
5. Service – Responsibility. "Body Life"
6. Worship
7. Giving – Stewardship
8. Doctrine

Christ Jesus Himself is the only foundation for the church. We can try to build a church on many other things. We can try to build a church on a preacher's personality, on the prestige of the congregation, or on programs and promotion. The person of Jesus Christ, however, is the only eternal foundation for the church. – Vines p.77

## **II. The Test v. 12-15**

The reason this sermon is so passionate is that I have a responsibility to warn men of the test.

I promise you on the authority of God's word you will get what you deserve. God's economy of justice is perfect. It has no flaws.

You can lay a perfect foundation and be a master builder and still make a mistake. You can use subpar materials.

Our work will be revealed.

Our material will be revealed.

**Greek:** "It will be shown for what it is."

Manifested – shown abroad.

We must learn that cracks in our foundation and cheap material will cause a collapse and it will be seen abroad.

Say it with me...."Your sin will find you out."

### **Materials:**

Gold, silver, costly stones vs. wood, hay & straw. Quite a contrast.

The first is material that lasts. The second is material that is perishable.

Gold, silver, stones = sacrifice, faithfulness, trust, faith, etc.

The Perishable = laziness, cheap, grass, doubt, unfaithfulness.  
Lack of commitment.

### **Illustration: David – 2 Samuel 24: 18-25**

I will not sacrifice to the Lord that which cost me nothing.

"Each man," "Every man." Is responsible for his building.

Question: What are you building with? Will it last?

\* "The" day will bring it to light!

### **Philippians 1:20-22**

<sup>20</sup> I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to go on living in the

body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose?  
I do not know!

**Psalms 62: 11-12**

<sup>11</sup> One thing God has spoken,  
two things I have heard:  
that you O God, are strong,  
<sup>12</sup> and that you, O Lord, are loving.  
Surely you will reward each person  
according to what he has done.

**Ecclesiastes 12: 13-14**

<sup>13</sup> Now all has been heard;  
here is the conclusion of the matter:  
Fear God and keep his commandments,  
for this is the whole [duty] of man.  
<sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment,  
including every hidden thing,  
whether it is good or evil.

**Matthew 12: 39-42**

<sup>39</sup> He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup> The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup> The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the

ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.

Works will be tested with the fire – Judgment of God.

Test - Approved, tested, scrutinize, distinguish.

\* To ascertain if there is a worth.

"Survives" to remain, menō

Can you say, "Leaving a Legacy?"

When our work is tested, will it remain. The Fire of His Purity will determine existence.

**Verse 15:** Saved by the skin of your teeth.

A slim margin. Your works are burned up and you enter heaven smelling like smoke.

Question: Do you want to just get there? That's Philippians 1:20, "shame."

### **III. The Building:** vv. 16-23

These verses speak of individuals but more so of the church. The "yous" are plural.

\* This is a major warning to those who impede the growth of the church. At Corinth it was carnality, fighting and divisions over leaders.

Be very careful with your building but even more careful with your tearing down. "v.17 - you reap what you sow."

- v.17 God destroys those who destroy the church.
- v.18 Spiritual irony. Be a fool for Christ and do not get deceived by human wisdom.
- v.19-20 A reminder – man's wisdom is foolishness.

**\*\*Man's thoughts are useless. We really think we are something!**

**He knows better!**

- v.21-22 All spiritual blessings and Godly wisdom is available to all.
- v.23 The connection we have is with Christ – Which ties you to God – so don't worry about man.

## **Closing:**

### **Matthew 7:21-27**

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams

rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”