

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 3:10-15**.
- B. Those who build physical structure know there is a right way and a wrong way in which to do it. Building codes have been set up to protect the innocent buyer from faulty workmanship.
- C. People must also be careful of how they build in spiritual matters. A building not founded correctly will not stand (Mt. 7:24-27; 1Cor. 3:10b).
- D. The apostle Paul spoke of those who would build a spiritual house, and taught us how to build correctly.

I. **FIRST, THE FOUNDATION MUST BE RIGHT.**

- A. Any builder knows that the overall strength of his house depends on the quality and strength of the foundation.
- B. This is true in spiritual matters as well. Therefore, Jesus Christ is the foundation that we build on.
- C. The true foundation of the church is built on:
 - 1. Jesus Christ, and the fact that He is the Son of God (1Cor. 3:11; Mt. 16:18).
 - 2. The apostles, for they taught us the doctrine of Christ (Rev. 21:14; Eph. 2:20).
 - 3. The prophets, for Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (Eph. 2:20; Rev. 19:10; Ac. 3:24).
- D. Since no man can lay another foundation, he must be careful as to how he builds upon the one already given.

II. **SECOND, OUR BUILDING WILL BE EVIDENT.**

- A. We cannot hide our works of building from men or God (Lk. 14:28-30).
- B. Those who build in a way so they can not finish will be ridiculed of men.
- C. Some will try to build in secret, but even these works will be known to God (Rom. 2:16).
- D. The great judgment on the final day, will expose all of the works of men and see how they have built upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ (Rev. 20:21).
- E. Each man's work will be evident, if not now, on the day of judgment (1Cor. 3:13).

III. **THIRD, WE ARE BUILDING DISCIPLES, NOT DOCTRINES.**

- A. Man will build with two different kinds of stones on the foundation (1Cor. 3:12):
 - 1. Permanent things; gold, silver, precious stones.
 - 2. Non-permanent things; wood, hay, straw.
- B. These items represent the kinds of disciples, not differing doctrines.
- C. This is true because we have been commissioned to build the church by making disciples, by using the doctrines given us:
 - 1. Make disciples by teaching doctrine (Mt. 28:18-20).
 - 2. Building up as living stones not living doctrines (1Pet. 2:5).
 - 3. Building ourselves up in love, not building doctrines (Eph. 4:12).
 - 4. We are not following every "wind of doctrine" but trying to be like Christ (Eph. 4:14-15).
- D. The best example of this is the parable of the sewer and the different soils. We plant the seed (the word of God), and this is the doctrine or foundation already given. The people grow depending in how receptive their heart is (Lk. 8:5-15).
- E. The foundation laid by the apostles (Eph. 2:20) is what strong disciples are built on.
- F. Therefore the gold, silver, and precious stones represent those converts who have become great disciples. The wood, hay, and straw represent converts who will not stand in the day of judgment.

IV. JUDGMENT DAY SUPRISES.

- A. The judgment will test the converts to see who is a real disciple (1Cor.3:13).
- B. True disciples will cause their builder to receive a reward (1Cor. 3:14).
- C. Those covertly who did not remain faithful will cause their builder not to receive a reward, but the builder will be saved anyway (1Cor. 3:15).
- D. This is true because we are commanded to preach, not convert. If we preach we will be saved, even if we don't make true disciples (Mk. 16:15; Ezek. 3:17-19; 1Cor. 3:5-8).
- E. This passage does not teach that a man may do false things, and preach false doctrine after his baptism and still be saved eternally.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Jesus said that we should bear fruit that remains, not that which grows for a while and withers away (Jn. 15:16).
- B. Therefore, let us be careful how we build, using the one true foundation of Christ and making others become living stones of gold, silver, and precious stones.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.