

Be Careful How You Build

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Introduction

Believers must build their lives in light of their future assessment at the judgment seat of Christ. (*Revelation 22:12; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10*) In 1 Corinthians 3, the building of solid lives is compared to construction. Just as a building must start with a strong foundation in order to last, the life of the believer must also be built on our firm foundation which is Jesus Christ. The only way to build the kind of life that will stand the test at the judgment seat of Christ is to start with the foundation of Christ. Once Jesus is established as the basis for your life, everything else that you do should simply be a response to the grace that you have received.

God will evaluate the kind of life that we live and the kind of service that we have given on earth. When buildings are constructed, the materials that are used in the process matter greatly. In 1 Corinthians 2:12-13, for example, gold, silver and precious stones are said to be valuable, whereas wood, hay and straw are cheap. High quality materials will contribute to a structure that is solid, durable, and highly valued. In the same way, God is interested in us living "high quality" lives for His glory. He doesn't want our leftovers or the cheap parts of our time, talents, and treasures. Believers will be exposed at the judgment seat of Christ for the quality of their Christian life and service.

Faithful believers will be rewarded for the quality of the lives they lived for Christ. Unfaithful believers, who did not live a life that reflected the foundation of Jesus Christ, will experience negative consequences. Much like the servant in Luke 19:20-26 who did not properly steward what his master had given him, they will suffer loss. While there will be negative consequences for believers who have not lived well, no one will lose their salvation; but they will lose what they could have had in heaven because they didn't value the foundation of Jesus Christ. (*1 Corinthians 3:15*)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever been frustrated by a lack of quality in products that you have paid for? Think about your experiences with purchases of goods and services. How have you felt when the quality of the clothes bought, repairs made, or houses built didn't measure up to your expectation?
2. Why do you expect quality when you've paid for something? Why should God expect quality from the lives we live?

Let's Get Personal

1. Do you give God cheap and left over living and service or do you give God valuable service?
2. Notice that the scripture says that the only foundation to build on is that of Christ. If you build on anything else it doesn't matter the quality of the materials you use, the building will still be worthless. Upon what other foundations are we as a culture driven to build on? Have you ever been tempted to make your foundation anything but the Lord? How did you correct this behavior?
3. Did you know before today that you would be held accountable for the quality of the Christian life that you live? If you have struggled to live a "high value" life, why do you think that is? What has gotten in the way of you giving your best to God?

Take the Next Step

1. Since we will all be judged for the quality of the life we will have produced with the time, talents, and treasures we received in this life, what changes do you need to make to prepare for this assessment?
2. Write out some ways to exchange cheap living and cheap work for Christ for quality living. What help do you need to make the necessary adjustments?
3. Want to dig deeper? Take a look at Revelation 22:12, 2 Timothy 2:11-13, and 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Renew Your Mind

*"For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 3:10-15*
