

PREPARING FOR ETERNITY

1 Corinthians 3:10-17

TO PREPARE FOR ETERNITY OUR FOUNDATION MUST BE CHRIST ALONE

- *“According to God’s grace that was given to me, I have laid a foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it. But each one is to be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 3:10-11)*
- **Christians are the Church that God is building and any foundation other than Christ alone will collapse when motives and beliefs are exposed.**

TO PREPARE FOR ETERNITY WE MUST BUILD WITH THE RIGHT MATERIALS

- *“If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, 13 each one’s work will become obvious. For the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one’s work. 14 If anyone’s work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be saved—but only as through fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:12-15)*
- “gold, silver, costly stones” = Sound biblical teaching, the word of God, the gospel, Jesus alone!
- “wood, hay, or straw” = False teaching - anything outside of biblical truth that feeds our sinful pleasures, selfish pursuits, materialism, greed, sexual immorality, pride, etc.
- *“Watch yourselves so that you don’t lose what we have worked for, but that you may receive a full reward.” (2 John 8)*
- **Our foundation must be built on proper motives, proper biblical teaching, and proper biblical living if we want to be ready to stand before the Lord when that time comes.**
- NOTE: Paul is speaking of God judging what we have done (service), not our salvation. He is talking about us receiving or losing rewards when we get to heaven.
- “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” (2 Corinthians 5:10)

TO PREPARE FOR ETERNITY WE MUST SEE OURSELVES THE WAY GOD SEES US

- *“Don’t you yourselves know that you are God’s temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God’s temple,*

God will destroy him; for God’s temple is holy, and that is what you are.” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

- As Dr. Akin notes, Paul will talk about the fact that every believer’s body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit in 6:19, but here he is talking about the Church, the “Body of Christ.”
- **The collective “body” of Christians across the planet make up God’s Church and are called to a life of holiness and dedication.**
- *“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! 9 As we have said before, I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him!” (Galatians 6:8-9)*
- **God loves His church and calls us His temple signifying the importance of Christians living set apart lives that are committed to Christ alone.**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation

- According to verse 11, what foundation did Paul say has already been laid, and who is that foundation?
- What is the difference between the person whose work survives the fire and the one whose work is burned up (vv. 14–15)?
- In verses 16–17, how does Paul describe believers collectively, and what warning does he give about God’s temple?

Understanding

- Paul says the only lasting foundation is Jesus Christ. In what ways do people today try to build their lives on other foundations?
- Paul contrasts “gold, silver, and costly stones” with “wood, hay, and straw.” What do these materials represent in the life of a believer?
- What might “gold and silver” living look like in your life right now—in your work, your family, or your faith community?
- Verse 13 says the quality of our work will be tested. How does this truth motivate you to examine your motives in serving God?
- What are some “wood, hay, or straw” habits or attitudes that God may be calling you to remove or surrender?
- What does it mean for us—both individually and collectively—to be the temple of God’s Spirit?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?