

1 Corinthians 3:10&amp;F

12/2/18

Sunday Morning

1. If you were given a small fortune, let's say 1 million dollars; what would you do with it?
2. 1 million dollars isn't a lot money anymore – you could spend it on about 10 nicer cars or 9 top end bass boats & it would be gone
3. You could just live on it & if you lived very long time you would run out of money
4. Or you could wisely invest it & be comfortable the rest of your life
5. Well – you have been given a small fortune & it is called "time"
  - a. You can just "live it" & about 10 cars or 9 bass boats later it is gone
  - b. You can squander it & when it's gone it's gone
  - c. You can invest it & live well through forever!
6. Last week we looked at the 4 different types of Christians found in Scripture
  - a. Mature, infant, carnal, weak
  - b. The last verse we looked at was **3:9**  
**1 Corinthians 3:9** For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.
    - i. It is hard for us to grasp – but God loves the carnal believer just as much as He loves the mature believer (but their fellowship isn't the same)
    - ii. All believers are special – even carnal believers
  - c. **If** it is true – "that all believers are special to God" (and it is) – what difference does it make how we live?
    - i. After all – every believer gets to heaven exactly the same way – by believing in the shed blood of Christ – not by our works  
**Romans 4:4** Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.  
<sup>5</sup> But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,
  - d. The answer to that question is what we are going to look at today

**1 Corinthians 3:10** According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

V.11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

V.12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

V.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.

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

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

\*There are two interpretations of this passage

\*Both interpretations are correct

\*Both interpretations leads to the exact same conclusion

V.10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

V.11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1. "I laid a foundation, and another is building on it" (**V.10**)
  - a. Paul starts by talking about church leaders
  - b. He states that any legitimate messenger of God teaches only what is compatible w/ the message of the preeminence of Christ
    - i. His death, burial, resurrection & what that means for us
  - c. Technically, he is talking about building up the church at Corinth
  - d. He says I brought the gospel to Corinth
    - i. Others have expounded on the gospel by teaching truth
2. "no man can lay a foundation other than the one...Jesus Christ"
  - a. **No** legitimate church leader would lead the Church away from the preeminence of Christ – that is an evil act
  - b. Scripture has strong words for anyone who tries to establish another foundation other than Christ

**Galatians 1:6** I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

<sup>7</sup> which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

<sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel **contrary** to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed<sup>(cursed/damned)!</sup>

<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed<sup>(cursed/damned)!</sup>

- c. Paul cautions legitimate church leaders to be careful how they build up the Church
- d. Then Paul broadens his thoughts to include the works of every believer **V.12**

V.12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

V.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.

1. "if any man builds on the foundation" (**V.12**)
  - a. The ESV translation captures the thought best
 

**1 Corinthians 3:12 (ESV)** Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—
  - b. The idea is; **all believers build** on the foundation of Christ
  - c. After all, there is no difference between clergy & laity – we are all accountable to God
2. "each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it"
  - a. Every believer's work **is clearly seen** at the judgment
    - i. This does not mean that every deed we have done becomes public
    - ii. This judgment only applies to the life lived **after salvation**
  - b. You have **no** good works before you are saved

- c. All the sins of your former life are washed away at the cross
- d. But at the Christian's judgment our entire life's work comes under scrutiny & will be judged
- e. He states clearly that this will take place at a set time – "for the day will show it"
- f. There are several "judgments" mentioned in Scripture
- g. Because the Bible sometimes blends different judgments together people sometimes get them mixed up – example:

**Hebrews 9:27** And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

**Daniel 12:2** "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. <sup>(there is a 1000 years between those two judgments)</sup>

- h. A few of the judgments that are easily confused are:
  - i. The **judgment of nations** (the sheep & goats)
  - ii. There is the **Great White Throne Judgment** (where only the lost are judged)
  - iii. The **believer's judgment** – (where believers are judged & given rewards)

- i. Every believer will stand before God for that judgment

- i. Examples:

**Romans 14:10** But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat<sup>(bema)</sup> of God.

**Romans 14:12** So then **each** one of us will give an account of himself to God.

**Ephesians 6:5** Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;  
<sup>6</sup> not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.  
<sup>7</sup> With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

<sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good thing each one does, **this** he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

- j. The main **purpose** of the Christian's judgment is to receive the rewards we have accrued

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

**1 Corinthians 4:5** Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and **then** each man's praise will come to him from God.

**1 Corinthians 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

**Hebrews 6:10** For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

V.12 x Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

V.13 x 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.

1. "for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire"
  - a. **Fire** in Scripture speaks often of judgment or testing
  - b. Every believer's work will be tested by fire
  - c. Some works stands the test – some works don't **V.14**

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

1. "If any man's work...remains, he will receive a reward"
  - a. Are these real rewards as we think of rewards?
  - b. Listen to Christ talking to Peter

**Matthew 19:27** Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"

<sup>28</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel<sup>(for the 12 apostles)</sup>.

<sup>29</sup> "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms **for My name's sake**, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life.

<sup>30</sup> " **But** many *who are* first will be last; and *the* last, first.

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

1. "he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire"
  - a. There is a lot of difference between: gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw
  - b. Every day you are building on your new life in Christ
  - c. At this judgment – all of the stuff that didn't matter in life is wood, hay & straw & burns up
  - d. This judgment is for the gaining &/or losing of rewards
  - e. When someone says, a person can't be a believer & live in sin – they contradict this whole principle found in Scripture
  - f. It is clear that **a believer can live a life as a failure**
  - g. Christ makes reference to this in other places

**Matthew 10:33** "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

**Luke 9:26** "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

**2 Timothy 2:12** If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

- k. Our lives will be judged according to the **good** & the **bad** we have done

**2 Corinthians 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**.

- l. You can't lose your salvation – but

- i. A believer pays a heavy price for living in sin

**Ephesians 6:9**<sup>(Christian slave owners)</sup> And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, **knowing** that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

**Colossians 3:23** Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,  
<sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

<sup>25</sup> For he who does **wrong** will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

- m. Apparently we can lose rewards previously earned by falling into sin

**1 Corinthians 9:27** but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

**2 John 1:8 (NIV)** Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

- n. So are we all doomed to live as failures? WE all sin!

- i. NO!

- o. There is a difference between stumbling into sin & living in sin!

- i. We are to confess sin & repent of it

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- p. When a believer **refuses** to confess sin & deal w/ it accordingly – that is rebellion – he must deal w/ that later – **at judgment seat**
- q. You can't get caught up in worrying about sins you don't know about & therefore can't confess – that is bondage
- i. This is where you must trust God to make clear what He wants you to see
  - ii. Even Paul didn't try to carry self-judgment too far  
**1 Corinthians 4:3** But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by *any* human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself.  
<sup>4</sup> For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.
  - iii. God knows your heart – if you want to live for Him or not
- r. If you want to live for Christ you have to trust Him to guide you  
**Philippians 3:13(NIV)** Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,  
<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.  
<sup>15</sup> All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.  
<sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already attained.
- i. This isn't an excuse to be lethargic about sin in your life
- s. Don't try to make living for Christ too complicated
- i. Even the most mundane things can't count for eternity
  - ii. Simply live for Him every day – all day long  
**Mark 9:41** "For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as *followers* of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.  
**1 Corinthians 10:31** Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**t. We have been given a small fortune**

- u. Each of us is given this moment in time – 24 hours in a day
- v. We can turn it into a large fortune for eternity

**Luke 19:12** (Jesus gave this parable) So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and *then* return.

<sup>13</sup> "And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas (each had same amount) and said to them, 'Do business *with this* until I come *back*.'

**V.15** "When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done.

<sup>16</sup> "The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.'

<sup>17</sup> "And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.'

<sup>18</sup> "The second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.'

<sup>19</sup> "And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.'

<sup>20</sup> "Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief;

**V.24** "Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.'

<sup>25</sup> "And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas *already*.'

<sup>26</sup> "I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.

- w. You & I are equally rich in time - we have today – live for Him
  - i. Make the most of your moment!

**Revelation 22:12** "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.



