

11-14-10

Series: The Resurrections

The Resurrections (30)

The Judgment of Seat of Christ (5)

[\(1 Corinthians 3:10-17\)](#)

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[Matthew 28:1-10](#)

(Continuation from 11-07-10)

The Doctrine of the Resurrections

[\(1 Corinthians 3:10-17\)](#)

The judgment of the works of the believers (5)

[\(1 Corinthians 3:10-17\)](#) **Introduction—Church:** this passage pictures the building of the church. This is clearly seen in that Paul has just declared to the local believers in Corinth, “You are God’s building” ([1 Corinthians 3:9](#); cp. [1 Corinthians 3:16](#)).

[1 Corinthians 3:9 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.

[1 Corinthians 3:16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

The church in Corinth was in severe straits. There were some *troublemakers* and *opinionated* cliques in the church who were about to destroy the church. Because of this they were endangering their eternal destiny, and they desperately needed to realize this. One of the answers to a divided church is for every believer to be a *wise builder and laborer within the church*.

1. **There is the master builder and the laborers (v.10).**
2. **There is the warning: let every believer take heed how he builds (v.10).**
3. **There is the only foundation: Jesus Christ (v.11).**
4. **There is the structure: there are two possible materials—permanent vs. perishable (v.12).**
5. **There is the day of inspection (v.13-15).**
6. **There is the building identified: the temple of God, that is, the church (v.16).**
7. **There is the seriousness of defilement: destruction (v.17).**

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1. (1 Corinthians 3:10) Church: there is the master builder and the laborers.

The word “**masterbuilder**” (*architektōn*) means “**the superintendent or architect of the building project.**” Paul says that he was the one who planned the church at Corinth. He was the one who laid the foundation, who began and superintended the founding of the church.

However, note three things.

1. Paul was a master builder because of the *grace of God*, not because of any personal ability or merit. The word “**grace**” means far more than just being called to found a church; it means “**to be enabled, empowered, and equipped to do the job.**” It was God’s power, God’s gifts, God’s abilities that were given to Paul to do the job.

Paul was only the instrument through which God built the church. **Now note a crucial factor:** Paul was not talking about a building. He was talking about people. The church was not a building; the church was a body of people who truly believed in Jesus Christ.

God gave Paul the grace—the strength, power, and ability—to reach people for Jesus Christ and to *assemble them together* into a body to worship God and to honor His Son, Jesus Christ. Where they met did not matter. They could meet in a home, a hut, a cave, a field, a back yard, a public building, or a church building.

What mattered was that they were one in their.....

1. trust in the Lord.
2. belief and worship of God.
3. purpose and mission to reach their neighbors and the world with the message of God’s great love.

2. Paul said he was a “*wise masterbuilder.*” The word “**wise**” means “**skillful.**” He did not approach the task and project unthoughtfully. He thought long and hard; he kept his mind upon the task. He did not allow the pleasures of the world to distract him; nor did he allow the desires of his own flesh, which sometimes ached for less demanding work, to interfere. Paul knew what God had called him to do, to plan and establish churches all over the world, so he did it as a “*wise*” architect and building superintendent.

3. Others built upon Paul’s work in Corinth. When Paul left Corinth, God raised up others to labor and to continue building the church.

They would include.....

1. the ministers
2. the leaders
3. the teachers
4. the members who served and carried on the ministry of the church in order to build it.

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This should include all members of a church, for all members are certainly to be building the church through their witness and service for the Lord. Every member is either building or destroying the testimony and strength of a church.

Thought 1. Think about an amazing thing. Every church has had a person who was the master builder, the architect, the founder of the church. Someone surrendered himself to God and went forth for God. Someone gave himself up to God to become a master builder, an architect, a pioneer, a builder of churches for God.

The all important question is: Where are the men and women today who will surrender their lives to God and be the master builders who go forth and build churches for God?

People desperately need to be reached and assembled together under the love and mission of Christ.

Matthew 16:15-18 (NASB)

¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

¹⁸ “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

Thought 2. Another important question is this:

How many church members are building up the church? How many are building wisely and skillfully upon the foundation that has already been laid?

1 Peter 2:5 (NASB)

⁵ You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.