

Building Wisely Upon Christ's Foundation
1 Cor. 3:10-16

*"Ancient buildings were often built with precious metals and jewels. No Christian need worry about the **foundation** of his faith. That is the marble and granite of the person and work of Christ, secure and stable and perfect. Our concern should be that, whatever we build on this foundation, we build with the best of materials. There is only one foundation, but there are many types of materials for erecting the spiritual edifice. As long as believers are alive, they are building. They are building some sort of life, some sort of church, some sort of Christian fellowship and service. It may be a beautiful structure or a hovel. It may be by intention or by neglect, but it cannot help being something." McArthur*

- I. Every one of us is expected to work alongside God to accomplish his will. It is important to him that we have a strong work ethic toward being effective and productive with our faith. We are God's field, which is an agricultural analogy that implies diligently plowing, planting and watering in his kingdom as we wait for God to bear the increase from our faithful labor. We are God's building, which is a construction analogy that implies diligently using the gifts he's given us to build our lives and his church upon the solid, unmoving foundation of Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 3:9-11

Matthew 7:24-27 24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

- II. Every believer is a builder, which means that we must be careful how we build. The materials we choose to build with determine in many ways the quality of our work. God wants us to build with the materials he offers through his Spirit; he doesn't want us to build with the inferior materials of the world. He has given us wisdom from the Spirit to discern between good materials and bad, therefore we are without excuse.

1 Cor. 2:12

1 Chron. 22:14-16

Eph. 2:8-10

1 Cor. 4:5

2 Cor. 5:10

Phil. 1:27

Rom. 1:17

1 Tim. 4:16

2 Peter 1:5-9

- III. There will be a "Day" when God will test the quality of the materials we have built with to see if they are perishable or imperishable. Constructive workers will receive everlasting rewards or crowns (Imperishable Crown – 1 Cor. 9:24-25, Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thess. 2:10,19, Crown of Life – James 1:12, Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim. 4:8, Crown of Glory – 1 Pet. 5:1-4). Unproductive workers will receive no rewards whatsoever. *"The thought here of a person who runs through flames without being burned, but who has the smell of smoke on him—barely escaping. In the day of rewards, the useless and evil things will be burned away but salvation will not be forfeited."* MacArthur

1 Cor. 3:13-17

2 Cor. 5:10