

# Shadows of Christ & His Bride

Lesson #22

Building On The Foundation

June 12, 2024

The Judgment Seat of Christ takes place before the Marriage of the Lamb.

Could the results of the Judgment Seat impact the members of the Bride of Christ?

In I Cor. 3: 1-4: Paul rebuked the Corinthian church for their immaturity. They were causing division over favored leaders in the church who were each preaching the same message.

The congregation was emphasizing aspects of the messengers like their rhetorical giftedness, intellectual acumen, leadership ability rather than lifting up Jesus Christ and The Gospel.

They needed to grow up in their affection for, appreciation of, & application of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Wayne Barber Since I Cor 1:10+ Paul has been dealing with the biggest symptom of a spiritual baby: attaching yourselves to people, to preachers with the message, rather than attaching yourself to Christ and living in the depth of your relationship to Him.

As we appropriately appreciate the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be cautious about how we view those who minister to us. We will be cautious to note that *men* are at work, but more importantly, that *God* is at work through these men.

Van Meter One of the greatest reformations in my ministerial lifetime has been a healthy return to expository preaching and an emphasis on Biblical theology. These emphases have been a great boon to a right understanding of the metanarrative of Scripture. This has helped Christians to grow in their confidence in Scripture, equipping them to grow in Christ.

## Servants Submitted To God's Supernatural Power

I Cor. 3:5-7 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

Power of the Gospel: For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. [Rom. 1:16]

Schreiner The 'task' given to Paul and Apollos stemmed from the Lord himself;

hence it is the Lord's work, not the work of ministers, that should be featured."

Rosner/Ciampa "The 'increase' is not their responsibility, nor is it within their power: *God has been making it grow.*" Keep your eyes on the true Hero of the story. As Jesus made clear, He will build His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it [Matt. 16:18].

As necessary as it is for a church to have servants who proclaim the gospel,

the *sufficiency* only comes from God.

II Cor. 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves;

but our sufficiency is of God;

Spirit of Humility It is not the human laborers who produce the harvest, but the Lord of the harvest. "God gives the increase."

I Cor. 3:8-9 Now he that plants and he that waters are one:

and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

<sup>9</sup> For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Unity of Purpose: No matter what work a person is doing for the Lord,  
he is still a part of the harvest.

Paul and Apollos (and any other combination of planter and waterer) are one in equality before the Lord and one in purpose. Each is of equal importance to the Lord and therefore each is of equal importance to the mission. But though each is of equal importance, and though they are united in the mission, God will evaluate them for their individual effort in their assigned roles. Since the church of God belongs to God, those responsible to teach and care for God's people have a sobering accountability.

Judgment Seat or Bema Seat I Cor. 3:10b-15

Paul reminds them: When he was with them, he laid the proper foundation for their church.

I Cor. 3:10a According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder,  
I have laid the foundation, and another builds thereon.

Enabled by His Grace: One is never enabled or empowered by God's grace until  
we have SURRENDERED our WILLS to Him.

I Cor. 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me  
was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all:  
yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

- Paul preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I Cor. 2:2
- He did not adhere to the wisdom of the world.
- He embraced and preached the wisdom of God in Christ. I Cor. 1:30

Result: A true church and community of faith was established.

Schreiner: If a community of faith is not established on the basis of the Gospel,  
the community is not a church. The only true basis for a church is the Gospel of Christ.

I Cor. 3:10b But let every man take heed how he builds thereupon.

Each= hekastos = "no exceptions" regarding attention and adherence to the truth that follows.

Note: Every man, each man, any man is used more than 8x in I Cor. 3: 10-18.

Paul broadens the scope of his argument to apply to anyone who would build on God's building,  
the Body of Christ, the Church.

MacArthur: Each man primarily refers to evangelists, pastors, and teachers,  
who have continued to build on the foundation laid by the apostles.

These are given special and the most direct responsibility for teaching Christian doctrine.

Eph. 2:20-22 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ  
himself being the chief corner stone;

<sup>21</sup> In whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto an holy temple in the Lord:

<sup>22</sup> In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

But the context makes it clear that a broader and more inclusive application is also in mind. The numerous references to "each man," "every man," and "any man" [vv. 10-18] indicate that the principle applies to every believer.

- All of us, by what we say and do, to some extent teach the Gospel.
- No Christian has the right to be careless in representing the Lord and His Word.
- Every believer has the responsibility to be a careful builder.

Take Heed: Must be careful is a command in the present imperative calling for each man to continually pay close attention, weighing carefully how he builds.

Wiersbe: Paul was discussing the building of the local church, the temple of God. [I Cor. 3] In I Cor. 6:19-20 the individual believer is God's temple; What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?<sup>20</sup> For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

God as the Owner calls for the Corinthians to give their allegiance solely to Him and not favor one leader over another, which would in turn help dissipate their jealousy and strife.

Paul: One day God will judge our labors as related to the local assembly. The fire will test the quality of each man's work. "Ye are God's building." If we are going to build the local church and our lives the way God wants them built, we must meet certain conditions

I Cor. 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

A. Build on the right foundation which is Jesus Christ.

When Paul came to Corinth, he determined to preach only Christ and Him crucified. I Cor. 2:1-2 He laid the only foundation that would last. Some try to build on a famous preacher or a special method or a doctrinal emphasis, but these ministries do not last. The Corinthians were emphasizing personalities—Paul, Peter, Apollos—when they should have been glorifying Christ.

- The foundation is the most important part of the building.
- It determines the size, shape and strength of the building.

MacArthur Some builders have tried to make the foundation of Christianity to be church tradition, others the moral teachings of the human Jesus, others ethical humanism, and still others some form of pseudo-scientism or simply sentimental love and good works.

- But the only foundation of the church and of each believer is Jesus Christ.
- Without that foundation no spiritual building will be of God or will stand.

Jack Arnold: Jesus Christ is the foundation for every Christian, for every local church and for the universal Church. Any church or person which begins to move away from the person and work of Christ begins to slide spiritually and soon will collapse and totally crumble. The Christ spoken of here is not the Christ of one's imagination or whims but the Christ of Scripture.

Consider: If we hope to have a walk with the Lord that is both unbreakable and unshakable - a walk that will withstand the storms, the trials, the challenges, and every other thing that the enemy will bring our way - a firm foundation is absolutely mandatory.

All that I am and ever will be, rests on Him.

"If you get Jesus wrong, it doesn't matter what you get right." If a firm foundation in Christ is to be built, a love for the Word of God must be *nurtured*, along with its *proper handling*.

Matthew Henry: "The doctrine of our Savior and His mediation is the principal doctrine of Christianity. It lies at the bottom, and is the foundation, of all the rest."

Isa. 28:16 So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed."

I Pet. 2:6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."

The chief cornerstone carries the weight of the structure. If laid properly, the weight of the building is evenly distributed and the structure remains sound. A solid, level foundation is a must, because without that strong base, the wall will eventually fall. The cornerstone provides the lines and the pattern for all the rest of the construction. The cornerstone is straight and true, and everything in the entire building lines up in reference to the cornerstone.

Our Messiah was *a tried stone*. Jesus was tried, was tested, and was proven to be the glorious, obedient Son of God in all things. He is precious and our cornerstone.

Jack Arnold: Paul made it clear: The foundation of the spiritual temple, the Church, is Jesus Christ. His person, His deity, His life, His death, His salvation, His doctrines, His resurrection, His ascension, His Holy Spirit who lives in all Christians, and His return and all that surrounds it make up the foundation. All this truth about Christ is revealed to us in the Bible.

The truth about *who Jesus is and what He has done* must be firmly engraved on the tablets of our hearts to ensure consistent growth.

Spurgeon: "None but Jesus, the divine Savior, could sustain the weight of a single soul with all its sins, much less of all the souls which are built up into the Temple of God."

Wiersbe: We are to take heed how we are building our own lives in Christ. How we live, what we do, where we go, how we behave, what we put into our minds and into our bodies, all affect our fellowship with the Lord. All these factors influence our spiritual growth or the lack of it.

Armed with the powerful truth of the Person and work of Christ stamped upon our hearts, along with an unconquerable trust in the same, making Him our foundation, and coupled with a love for His Word, which will thoroughly nourish us daily, we must take heed how we build on the foundation.

B. Build with the right materials Wisdom of God Versus Wisdom of Man

I Cor. 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones,  
wood, hay, stubble;

Remember: Paul has been writing about wisdom in the first three chapters.

The Corinthians were trying to build their church by man's wisdom, the wisdom of this world, when they should have been depending on the wisdom of God as found in the Word.

When men resort to inferior building materials, wood, hay, stubble, they will:

- Corrupt the Word of God II Cor. 2:17

For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God:

but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

- Preach man's wisdom I Cor 2:4

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom,  
but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

- Promote men and man followers III John 1:9

I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them,  
receiveth us not.

- Build Laodicean churches Rev 3:16-18

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

<sup>17</sup> Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: <sup>18</sup> I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

- Draw away people with every wind of doctrine & the sleight of men Eph 4:14

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Rosner/Ciampa "Any doctrine of the cross that treats it only as

the entry point into the Christian life is seriously deficient."

Gal. 3:1-3 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

<sup>2</sup> This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

<sup>3</sup> Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

- Paul is concerned about their defection.
- They were robbing themselves of the blessings of God.
- They were robbing the world of the right view of God's salvation.

Instead of the Holy Spirit working in them...they were turning to legalism and ritual,  
routine and ceremony, religious hocus pocus.

Question: How did you receive the Holy Spirit? After circumcision, performing rituals and/or Observing rites? Checking your boxes?

Key: These things are wood, hay, and stubble. They CANNOT pick up where they cross left off.

Truth: The cross NEVER leaves off. Works never please God.

I Cor. 3:18-20 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seems to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.<sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

<sup>20</sup> And again, The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

MacClaren: The 'wood, hay, stubble' are the vapid and trivial doctrines which the false teachers were introducing into the Church. The 'gold, silver, and precious stones' are the solid and substantial verities [truths, facts] which Paul and his friends were proclaiming.

They have a real faith, but it is of the feeblest and most rudimentary kind. They are on the foundation, but their lives are interlaced with the most heterogeneous mixty-maxy of good and evil, of lofty, high, self-sacrificing thoughts and heavenward aspirations, of resolutions never carried out into practice; and side by side with these there shall be meanness, envies, selfishness, tempers, dispositions all contradictory of the former impulses. One moment they are all fire and love, the next moment ice and selfishness. One day they are all for God, the next day all for the world, the flesh, and the devil. Jacob sees the open heavens and the voice of God and vows; to-morrow he meets Laban and drops to shifty ways. Peter leaves all and follows his Master, and in a little while the fervor has gone, and the fire has died down into grey ashes, and a flippant servant-girl's tongue leads him to say 'I know not the man.'

➤ 'Gold, silver, precious stones,' and topping them, 'wood, hay, stubble!'

David Guzik Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Mixing the wisdom of men with the wisdom of God in the work of building the church is like using alternate layers of straw and marble in building.

Straw may be fine, it may have a place (in the barn), but it is an inadequate building material. In the same way, human wisdom and fleshly attractions do not have a place in the building of the church. If a church isn't founded on Jesus Christ, it isn't a church. A believer can't build on any other foundation; but one can build unworthily on The One Foundation.

Wiersbe: Ministry that is based on carnality, worldliness, and false teaching creates confusion, and develops carnal, immature believers. [II Tim. 4:3]

Note: I Cor 3:10,17 deal primarily with warning to the preacher/teacher of God's Word and emphasize that one must teach those things that will endure: gold, silver, precious stones.

How does any man build on the foundation of Christ? Paul's closing exhortation to Timothy

II Tim. 4:1-4 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,

who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

Note: All are in the aorist imperative command. Depend on the Holy Spirit to obey.

- Preach the Word
- be ready in season and out of season;
- reprove
- rebuke
- exhort with great patience and instruction.

Paul explains why so critical: The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

- one must teach the pure unadulterated milk of the Word I Pe 2:2+
- not shrinking from declaring the whole counsel of God Acts 20:27+

Acts 20:26-27 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

I Cor. 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of:

for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

I Cor. 1:17a For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel:

- not apologizing for the difficult statements Jesus made in the Gospels, but boldly proclaiming the Word, being ready in season and out of season II Tim. 4:2-4+
- If we do so, we will not shrink back from Him in shame at His coming I John 2:28+

Those who lead God's church must keep their eye on the person, the price and the prize of Jesus Christ. When the Lord Jesus Christ is our supreme object of adoration, affection, and loyalty, the church will be devoted to everything that He commands us. Failure to obey Him in all areas will eventually weaken the churches foundational commitment to the Gospel.

I Cor. 2:1-6 For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.<sup>3</sup> And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

<sup>4</sup> And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

<sup>5</sup> That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

Wiersbe: Paul was referring to the doctrines of the Word of God.

- The Word is food for the family, seed for the field and materials for the temple.
- That which is eternal is of God, of His Word and of His Spirit.
- Proverbs presents the wisdom of the Word of God as treasure to be sought, protected and invested in daily life.

Prov. 3:13-14 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Prov. 2:1-5 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; so that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Prov. 8:10-11 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Wiersbe: Ministers of the Word must dig deep into the Scriptures and mine out the precious gold, silver, and jewels. Then build these truths into the lives of the people.

DL. Moody: Converts should be weighed as well as counted.

Col. 2:6-10 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him:

<sup>7</sup> Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

<sup>9</sup> For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

<sup>10</sup> And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

If you are a believer, you are part of the "each man/any man," for all believers are teaching others in one form or another.

The quality of our building materials will be assayed and assessed!

What material are you using to build on the foundation of Jesus Christ?

What are your motives? What is your attitude towards that which God has given you?

Are you a faithful steward? Do you give God quality time and resources or just leftovers?

Are you using all that God has put into your hand?

Are you using your talents and gifts for the glory of God?

Gold, silver and precious stones are eternal building materials.

Notice how these three building materials are manifested in a well-balanced ministry:

*Gold* Exalt the Savior, who is God.

*Silver* Evangelize sinners, for whom Christ died and shed his blood.

*Precious stones* Edify saints, the stones in the building.

I Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

God who is the "building inspector," wants His building done skillfully.

He watches every step of construction, every bit of labor in which we invest.

Gal. 6:7 "Do not be deceived God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."  
[present imperative with a negative = stop being deceived like you are now being deceived!]

This begs the question: Are you sowing with precious or worthless building materials?