**I Corinthians 3:9-17**

***Be Careful How You Build***

Introduction

1. We are all building. How can we build successfully?

2. I Corinthians 3:9-17 tells us that every Christian is building. To build successfully we are given three reminders:

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**I. THE REMINDER IN BUILDING 3:9-11**

***A. Cooperation 9a*** *For we are laborers together with God*

**1.** *For we are laborers…*It takes work, effort, energy, planning. **It takes work!** We have a

responsibility. *Vision is 10%. Perspiration (work) is 90%* *to complete a dream.*

**2.** Building the Kingdom, where Christ crucified and the Gospel is the core of the

project.

**3.** *With God* We have our part (sharing the Good News or exposing God’s Word). God

will do His part. His part is to **Convince…Convict…Convert.**

***B. Consecration 9b*** *you are a cultivated field.*

*You are God’s cultivated field…You are God’s building.* You belong to God. He expects

a planting. He expects a harvest.

1. The moment you receive Jesus Christ, you no longer belong to you to do as you please. You belong to Another. He can do with you whatever He wants.
2. He created me. He called me. He converted me for a purpose. We are never happy or fulfilled unless we are being used for that which we are designed.

***C. Complement 10***

**1.** *According to the grace of God which is given unto me as a wise master builder.*

**\*Our Grace…***according to the grace*

**\*Our Gift…***which is given unto me*

\***Our Guide…***as a wise master builder*

**2.** *I have laid the foundation (Paul) another builds on it (Apollos and Cephas)* This isn’t

a one man show. Every worker is to do his part in the project. On a work site there are

those who dig the footer, pour the concrete, framers, finishers, carpenters, electricians,

painters, and a dozen more.

1. Jesus Christ is the foundation. Be careful how you build on that Foundation. Each believer has a responsibility. Have a plan and then work the plan. Everyone is going to build something on that foundation. There is a right way and a wrong way. **Follow the blueprint!**

***D. Control 11*** *Other foundation can no man lay (there are thousands, but only one right*

*One)than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

1. There are hundreds of foundations, but only one that is right. Only One that will stand the test of time.
2. Everyone is building. It is possible to build on the wrong foundation.
3. On what are you building your life? The storms will come. If the foundation is not Jesus Christ, you have the wrong foundation. One day it will collapse!

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**II. THE REWARD IN BUILDING 3:12-15**

1. ***The Material 12*** What can we build on the right foundation…Jesus Christ?
2. **Spirit Produced Material…***Gold, silver, precious stones.* These are things of value, things that will last. They are grace things…Spirit produced things.
3. **Self Produced Material…***wood, hay and stubble.* These are self produced. These are things produced by our own strength. They are worth little, and they won’t last!
4. ***The Manifestation 13*** *work* is what is built on the foundation.
5. *Every man’s work shall be manifest.*
6. There is coming a day when the works of believers will be checked. This is at the Bema Seat. (II Cor. 5:10)
7. *Fire* shall test the *works.* This isn’t for salvation; it is for rewards.

\**Gold, silver, precious stones*…this is Spirit made, God’s grace stuff. What has been produced remains.

\**Wood, hay, straw…*this is the Self, Flesh stuff. What has been produced amounts to nothing… poof up in smoke!

**4.** *Every man’s work…what sort it is…*speaks of quality, not quantity. We are impressed

with quantity…how many…how big…how impressive. It may look good now, but

what about then? What does God see? Do you have anything that will remain? Spirit

things will last throughout all eternity!

1. ***The Marvel 14, 15***
2. *If any man’s work abide…*That which he has built on the foundation, Jesus Christ.

**\****He shall receive a reward…*perhaps he or she will rule and reign, or crowns to lay at His feet. This is not salvation. Salvation is a gift. What we do now, why we do what we do now, and how we do it does effect in some way our eternity.

**2.** *If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss…*this is not salvation, but

rewards.

\**Burned…*this is the *wood, hay, and straw* stuff. That which has been produced by

Self stuff.

\*Will all you have done on earth go up in smoke?

\**Yet he himself shall be saved…***no one misses the fire!**

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**III. THE RESTRAINT IN BUILDING 3:16, 17**

1. ***Know This 16***
2. *You are the temple of God…*This body is His, and it should be for His purpose. *Temple* is the word for the holy of holies, the inner sanctuary. This visible body houses an invisible God!
3. *The Spirit of God dwells in you…*That is why we are a temple. God is at home here. This is the source of our power. It is that by which *gold, silver, and precious stones* are produced. It is Him working through us.
4. ***Remember This 17*** Not everyone has the Holy Spirit. Some are not building on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

The severity of this verse is apparent with the words *defile and destroy.*

1. This is a severe warning. God will not destroy those He has redeemed and given eternal life.
2. It is composed of those who reject Jesus Christ, those who attack God’s people and God’s work. This destructive group can work either within the church or without, destroying what God has built up.
3. Every believer is the temple of God, indwelt by the Spirit of God. This is where the war begins. Satan is out to destroy what God is doing. God is holy, so that which flows from the believer should be pure and holy.
4. *Him shall God destroy...*this is a warning to those defiling the sanctity, destroying the unity, dividing individual members of the body of Christ.The temple of the believer must be clean…pure…united.*Destroy* is corrupt or bring to a worse state. It is a gross sin to be a church wrecker. God will deal with that person.

Are you building on the foundation of Jesus Christ?

If so, what are you building on that foundation?