

Building A Fireproof Life

1 Corinthians 3

Introduction:

1. A good foundation is an absolute necessity if one is to have a sound building.
2. The Bible teaches that, if we are saved, we are God's building (vs. 9), and we are built upon the most solid foundation that could ever be laid, Jesus Christ (vs. 11). Isaiah 28:16; cf. 1 Corinthians 10:4
3. Do you have the foundation of Christ laid in your life? Do you know Him as your personal Savior? Does He dwell in your heart by faith? Romans 9:32-33
 - In order to have Christ as your foundation, you must accept and receive Him by faith. The foundation is not laid by your good deeds or religious effort. It isn't by joining a church or being baptized in water.
 - Many stumble over the Rock of Christ rather than receive Him.
4. Not only is it important to have a solid foundation, you must build upon that foundation a solid structure. You can possess a solid foundation, but if you build a weak structure, it is to no avail.
5. Verse 10 warns all believers to take heed how they build on the foundation. There are two distinct ways to build your life. vs. 12-15
 - You can build upon your foundation a structure of gold, silver, and precious stones.
 - You can build upon your foundation a structure of wood, hay, and stubble. cf. Malachi 4:1
6. Mark it down. When you go through the fiery furnace of trials and afflictions, it reveals what kind of builder you've been.
 - Fire destroys and consumes the building (life) that has been built of wood, hay, and stubble. It lays in ashes and rubble.
 - Fire simply refines and makes stronger and more beautiful the building of gold, silver, and precious stones.
7. Satan will beat against the believer's house to see how you've built it. 1 Peter 5:8
8. This is why Paul admonished believers to "...*take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*" It is wonderful to have a solid foundation, but how are you going to build?
9. Will we build carelessly and haphazardly or will we build a solid structure that can withstand the fiery trials and testings of life and of Satan?
10. How can we, as believers, build our Christian lives with gold, silver, and precious stones? How can we build a life that is fireproof?

First, by seeking to continue our spiritual growth – vs. 1-4

1. The Corinthians were saved; they had trusted Christ. Notice the last two words of vs. 1 – "*in Christ.*" But their growth process had been stunted. They were "*babes in Christ.*"
2. They should have been feasting on the meat of the Word, but instead they were still on milk. vs. 2

- There is nothing wrong with a baby feeding on milk, but it should be temporary, not permanent. cf. Hebrews 5:11-14
3. These Corinthians were not growing like they should have been, and it showed. vs. 3-4
 - They were not walking in the Spirit, depending on Christ. They were walking according to their fleshly desires and fleshly instincts.
 - They were envious of one another. They were contentious and divisive. This can happen to anybody. When our spiritual growth is stunted, we can get carnal real quick. We can revert to behavior from our spiritual infancy.
 4. You never get too old to grow spiritually. You are never saved long enough to where you no longer need to grow. We should keep growing until heaven is our address.
 5. When it comes to our growth, it is not so important where we are, but which way we're heading. Are we growing or declining spiritually? Do you desire to fireproof your life from the fiery trials of life? You must continue to grow spiritually.

Second, by keeping our eyes Christ-centered, not man-centered – vs. 4-8, 21-23

1. Instead of looking vertically, these Corinthians were looking horizontally. They had gotten their eyes fixed on men. vs. 4
2. You cannot build a solid Christian life if it is built on men. Why is this? Because we are all made of the same stuff – flesh! Men at their best are still men!
3. Everybody (no matter how spiritual) will disappoint you if you are around them long enough. They will let you down. It is inevitable.
4. When the fires of life come, you had better not try to fireproof your life with the pastor, your L.I.F.E. Group leader, your youth pastor, your spouse, your parents, etc. Look to Jesus, and if your faith is in Him, the fires will refine you and make you better and stronger. If your faith is in men, the fires of life will consume you and destroy you.
5. Paul realized the importance of not looking to men (vs. 21, 4:6). Paul taught:
 - Do your service as unto the Lord, not unto men. Ephesians 6:7
 - Let your faith stand in the power of God, not the wisdom of men. 1 Corinthians 2:5
 - Be rooted and built up in Christ, not a man. Colossians 2:7
 - Give glory to God for increase and blessing, not man. vs. 6-8
6. If you are saved, your foundation is Christ. You had better remember this! If you quit serving God because of other people disappointing you, the world sees this and mocks. Luke 14:29-30
7. If you are to fireproof your life, you must keep your eyes on Jesus and realize that He is the only one that will never disappoint you, and He alone is faithful. Hebrews 12:2

In Conclusion:

1. We have learned two key principles from this text on how to fireproof your life, so that you can withstand the fiery trials of life and come through victoriously.
2. But did you know that there is quite an eternal benefit to this too? vs. 13-15
3. One day we will all stand before Jesus Christ, and our works will be tried by fire. Jesus Christ will test our works to see how we built.
4. If we built our lives upon Christ and His Word, there will be reward. If we built our lives upon our own fleshly desires and upon men, there will be great loss.
5. How you build your life now will determine your rewards in heaven in the future.
6. Let's be wise master-builders and build our lives upon Christ!