

September 27, 2020
I Corinthians 3:10-15
A Wise Master Builder

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. Notice how Paul takes absolutely NO credit for the work that has been accomplished through him, the Lord's "servant" or "bus boy-table cleaner." Paul acknowledges that anything he has accomplished is by God's grace. So should we.
2. The day of judgment is when Christ will judge the quality of His servants' work (**2 Cor. 5:10**). It is not a question of salvation which is a gift (**Rom. 6:23**), or a matter of individual deeds (**Eph. 2:8-9**), but of service which is judged on the basis of quality not quantity. Considerable apparent success can be had by dint of human effort and wisdom (cf. **1 Cor. 2:4**), but unless it is empowered by God in accordance with His plan it cannot last (**Ps. 127:1**). Lowery, D. K., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*.
3. This fire spoken of in verse 13 tests the quality of the Christian's work. The work that withstands the testing will bring reward. The work that is consumed represents work that was done with the wrong motif, though the work is destroyed the Christian himself will be saved as though by fire. W. Harold Mare, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*

APPLICATION:

Paul goes from agriculture to architecture. Sowing and watering to being a master builder. Paul, the Master Builder, laid the doctrinal foundation, "Christ Jesus and Him crucified." Be careful as you build. In simple fashion Paul speaks of rewards. Some people will have many rewards for things they did with clean hands and pure hearts. Their motifs were God honoring and pleasing to the Lord. The inept builder will see the loss of his labor, but he himself will be saved, I like what J. Vernon McGee used to say about this verse, this carnal Christian will be in heaven but he will have come so close to hell that he smells like he was purchased at a fire sale! As someone wisely said, before such judgment the various materials may coexist and appear indistinguishable (**Matt. 13:24-30**, *Parable of the wheat and the tares*). Be sure that what you are building with "spiritually" is of quality in the Lord's eyes.