

Series: Words of Correction and Counsel

# LABOURERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-17

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:9

## **1 Corinthians 3:9**

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

Introduction:

Sadly, Christianity has had its share of “Pied Pipers,” those charismatic (in personality) individuals who seem to be able to lead a group of followers anywhere they wish.

Most of us are familiar with the names of men like Jim Jones and David Koresh, and we wince at the memory of what they did to their followers, not to mention the name of our Lord. Then there are some whose sins have devastated others, and at times have wrought financial havoc for many Christian ministries.

There seems to be one common element in these disasters—the men who fell were so powerful, and their control so great, that they seemed almost “unstoppable.” The reason for this: these leaders were so elevated and revered in the minds of their followers

that they were considered beyond the temptations and sins of mankind.

When men are elevated too highly in the minds of their followers, the people begin to think their leaders are infallible, that they are above the sins we see in ordinary people.

The problem of esteeming leaders too highly starts very subtly and innocently. It begins with a deep respect and appreciation, often because this individual has led them to Christ, or that he (or she) has greatly contributed to their spiritual growth.

Allegiance to this leader becomes a status symbol in which followers take great pride. Out of this misguided allegiance, they feel obligated to ignore or even oppose other Christian leaders.

This was the problem at Corinth.

Paul addresses this issue in these verses.

Read Text: 1 Corinthians 3:5-17

Note:

# 1. THE INSTRUMENTS IN GOD'S WORK

## **1 Corinthians 3:5-9**

*<sup>5</sup> Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?*

*<sup>6</sup> I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. <sup>7</sup> So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. <sup>8</sup> Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. <sup>9</sup> For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

The instruments that God uses are servants.

As we read in these verses we as servants have nothing to brag about – as Paul stated those that plant and those that water aren't anything.

All glory and all praise belongs to God for He is the One who gives the increase.

There are no superstars in God's service.

All servants are a part of the same task.

Some plant

Some water

But God only gives the increase.

As servants we have a unified purpose – serve the Master.

We are fellow laborers with God.

Note not only the Instruments In God's Work but secondly:

## **2. OUR INCUMBENCY OR RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD'S WORK**

### **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

*<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. <sup>11</sup> For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; <sup>13</sup> Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work abide which he hath built*

*thereupon, he shall receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

#### A. All Building Begins With a Foundation

The Lord gives us an illustration about the importance of a foundation is.

#### **Luke 6:46-49**

*<sup>46</sup> And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? <sup>47</sup> Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: <sup>48</sup> He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. <sup>49</sup> But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*

There is time and effort in building the right foundation.

In our passage Paul is declaring that by God's grace he established the church at Corinth on the firm foundation of the Lord.

A Building begins with a foundation:

B. All Buildings Continues With a Structure

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

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Now as we build upon the foundation we are not to mess with the foundation.

We are not to build on anything else than Christ.

We are to pay very close attention to the materials that we use because the fire will try every man's work.

It is obvious that the Corinthians were building with poor material because of the:

- Immaturity in the church - Carnal
- Insensitivity in the church
- Imprudence in the church – I'm of Paul

Remember there are two ways to destroy a building:

- Tamper With the Foundation
- Use Inferior Materials

All building begin with a foundation and continue with the structure but also:

### C. All Building End With An Inspection

#### **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

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*work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

Remember:

- God's inspection is coming

God's inspection is universal – every believer will have his work inspected

The work will be tried by fire.

Wood, hay and stubble will only fuel the fire.

Gold, Silver and Precious Stones will take the heat.

The building that survives will be rewarded (vs. 14)

***1 Corinthians 3:14***

*<sup>14</sup> If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

Close:

We need to determine to build on the right foundation, use the proven and proper materials.