

# Are You Fireproof?

Key Text:

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 NKJV

*<sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. <sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup> If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (1 Co 3:9–15). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

## **Introduction.**

What comes to mind when you think of a test?

- For some it may be an examination that tests your knowledge or how much you have studied. Whatever the case may be, what a test does is really reveal where you stand and what you believe or know.
- I believe that is what has happened during the times we live in. Such things as the pandemic has revealed where people stand and what they believe. These times has revealed what people really believe in regard to their faith, revealed where people stand in regard to relationships, it has even revealed un-resolved issues people may have had.
- Regardless to what kind of test we may have been tested with, the reality is in life we all go through tests that test what we believe, what we know, and what we really stand on.

## **Thesis:**

Although we all will be tested, and go through tests, the question is How can we withstand the test? How can we come out strong?

- The Story I think about is the Story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego seen in Daniel 3. In this story we see how the King at that time “Nebuchadnezzar” set himself up as a God and built himself an Idol for all of the people in the land to bow down and worship. Everyone bowed excepted Daniel’s friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. We know because they did not bow, they had to go through the furnace. But because they did not bow, and honored the Lord, The Lord was in the fire with them, and they came out unscathed.

- I believe as we go through the trials and tests of life, we too can come out unscathed. It is like what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:8-12 (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 4:7 -12 NKJV

*<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—<sup>10</sup> always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So then death is working in us, but life in you.<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (2 Co 4:7–12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

In essence, as believers we can be fireproof. In order for us to live Fireproof lives, we must be careful to how we build, build our lives on the rock of Christ, and build with Godly material by applying the word of God.

### **Overview:**

### **Context:**

- To better understand how we can withstand the test and be Fireproof, we are looking at the first Epistle Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth. If you think of the Church in Corinth, this was the Church that Paul had the most problems with. This was a Church much like today's church. It was a church that was into status, it was into politics, it would struggle with things like eating meats that were offered to other Gods etc. In fact, in chapter 10, Paul compares their behavior to the nation of Israel.
- However, in chapter three the Apostle Paul is seen settling a dispute that was amongst them. They had a dispute in

regard to who was more credible, Paul or Apollos. Apollos along with Paul were both workers of the Ministry, however because these people were so into status, they tried to accredit themselves for political gain as to whom they were affiliated with, and who was most honorable, Paul or Apollos. This describes why Paul demonstrates how they both are Gods workmanship, Paul being the one who plants, Apollos the one who waters but God brings the increase.

- In verse 9 of chapter three, Paul shifts the attention from being on him and Apollos, to the people by painting an image of a field or building, and how they or we are also builders and Christ's building. 1 Corinthians 3:9 says: <sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.
- Most of the time when we think of Christ and a building, we think of the church building. However, Here Paul says, "You are God's building," to which in verse 16 he elaborates by

saying; <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.<sup>3</sup>

- This is why you can shut the church doors, but you cannot shut out the church. God is not limited to what we limit him to.
- By using the word “The Temple” for Paul’s readers, this refers them 1. To The Temple in the Old Testament. This Temple God instructed Moses to build as a place of worship, so He could be amongst his people.
  - We also see Solomon’s Temple. God gave David the vision to build the temple, but Solomon would actually build it, and He built it to be a resting place for God because there was not a place for

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<sup>3</sup> [\*The New King James Version\*](#). (1982). (1 Co 3:16–17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

his spirit to rest. Jesus had not come yet at this point, so the spirit did not have a place to rest.

- This was the Temple they thought would be broken down when Jesus said, “I will tear it down, and build it up in three days.” Jesus wasn’t referring to this temple, He was referring to himself.
- Because Jesus died, resurrected, and ascended onto Heaven, He could now send the gift that He had for us, which is the Holy Spirit, who now dwells in those who are born again, and believe in him. Because of this, we now are in-Christ Jesus, are his Elect, and his church or temple.

Message:

### **I. Pay attention to how you build.**

Although Paul now paints the picture as us being God’s Building, the Apostle Paul instructs us to Take Heed to how we build.



- To take heed means to listen and pay attention. Paul is telling us as believers to listen and pay attention to how we build.
  - Why does he tell us to listen and pay attention? He Tells us to listen because what we choose to listen to and pay attention can dictate what we choose to think and believe. What we choose to believe eventually will dictate what we choose to act upon.
  - Q. What are you listening and paying attention to? Are we paying attention to the word of God, or the lies of the enemy?
    - See the Bible tells us that the enemy tries to come in like a Flood, or Roaring Lion. That means, when the enemy comes in, He tries to flood everything, whether it be what we are looking at, what we are listening to. The goal is to cause deception and fear. The Enemy wants you to think that what He is saying is the truth. The Goal is that he can

cause you to think and act in a way so He “The Roaring Lion” can devour you.

- On the contrary, there are so many times when Jesus says, “Blessed are those who have ears to hear, let them hear.” The particular passage I think about, is when Jesus paints the picture of a wise builder. He says the foolish builder hears the word and does not do it, therefore He builds his house on the sand, and when the test comes it falls with a great crash. But He who listens and does the word, is a wise builder building his life on the firm foundation being Christ.
- When we are taking heed to how we build we need two things: 1. Wisdom 2. Discernment.
- Wisdom the quality of having not just experience, but knowledge, and good judgment. Discernment is the ability to discern whether the information we have received is of God or not. This kind of discernment comes by the Holy Spirit.

## II. Build our lives on Christ our solid foundation.

1 Corinthians 3:11 NKJV

*<sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup>*

- Although Paul refers to Christ being the foundation to the church at large, if we are going to be Fireproof, Christ must be the foundation to all of our lives. He must be the foundation to our lives, our families, our church, our communities, our cities, our governments, our nation, and our world.
- The moment that Christ is not your foundation, and we compromise to the world, we will not succeed.

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<sup>4</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (1 Co 3:10–11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Q. Why does Paul begin with Christ as the foundation?

- If you think of building a building, the first thing that goes down is the foundation. If you think of it, the foundation carries the weight of the entire house. As believers Christ is the foundation.
- When Christ is the foundation, you have a solid base to fall back on. In other words, Christ is absolute Truth.
- The reality is, today there are many of us who are looking for truth, or believe we are to live out our truth. Whatever the case may be, if our truth is not found in Christ, the reality is it is faulty truth, which also includes error. It is possible (if Christ is not our foundation) for our truth to be a lie when Christ is not our foundation. It can be truth to us, but totally not apply to someone else.
- When Christ is not our foundation, we are building on faulty ground which is not stable. When He is not our foundation,

not only do we not know Truth, we also do not know who we are.

### III. What are we building with.

1 Corinthians 3:12-13 NKJV

*<sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.<sup>5</sup>*

- As we read 1 Corinthians 3:12-13 Paul provides 6 types of materials builders use to build. Three of these materials are the type that would withstand fire such as Gold, Silver and

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<sup>5</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (1 Co 3:11–13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Precious stone, and 3 that would burn in the fire such as wood, straw, and Hey.

### **A. Gold, Silver, Precious stone.**

- The wood straw and Hey in this passage represent the doctrinal teachings of the Jesus and the Apostles.
- Good doctrinal teaching is so important when it comes to how we build, because it influences how we think, and how we think determines how we act, and how we act will determine the reality we have and if we will survive the test or not.
- Today this is so important because there are a lot of false doctrines that are out there. Doctrines that seem nice but will not help you any when life hits you and you are forced to live by your faith. But it is the doctrine Jesus teaches us, as well as the Apostles that tend to get us through what we are going through.

- A good example of this can be seen in Matthew chapters 5-7, where Jesus is preaching his famous sermon on the mount. Here Jesus teaches us how to have a blessed attitude. He teaches us how we can be salt and Light in the world, and how the world will recognize us by our good works that glorify the Father.
- Jesus teaches about matters of the heart such as how murder begins in the heart, and how adultery is a heart issue.
- Jesus speaks about how to go the second mile with people, which is basically walking in love with one another. He teaches us how to love those who curse us and love our enemies.
- He Teaches us how to pray, and how to not lay-up treasures on earth but in heaven.
- He also tells us to not worry but seek first the Kingdom of God (Matt 6:33).

- In Matthew 7 He also tells to take the narrow way, not the way everyone else is taking.
- He tells us to be aware of false prophets, and how we will know them by their fruit.
- Moreover, Finally, He tells us in Matthew 7:24-29 that when we APPLY the teachings he teaches, or APPLY the word of God to our lives, the test will come, beat against our house (our life) and it will not fall.

## **B. Wood, Straw, Hey.**

- Just as the Gold, Silver, and Precious Stone will withstand the fire, Wood, Straw, and Hey are material that would be burnt in the fire.
- This Material represents teachings, Human Philosophies, Man-made systems. These things often times present themselves as reliable, therefore people can tend to put their



trust and confidence in them, and in Man. However, our trust is never to be in man, it is to be in God.

1 Corinthians 3:18-23 NKJV

*<sup>18</sup> Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.*

*<sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness”; <sup>20</sup> and again, “The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”*

*<sup>21</sup> Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:*

*<sup>22</sup> whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. <sup>23</sup> And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.<sup>6</sup>*

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<sup>6</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (1 Co 3:18–23). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- Worldly wisdom is futile wisdom. It is finite. Wisdom. True wisdom comes only from God. It is this wisdom that the book of Proverbs tells us to get. (Proverbs 4:1).
- The danger of building with wood, straw, and Hay, when the heat of life comes on, this material is not built to last.

### **Closing.**

- The reality is, in life we will go through tests, and these tests will reveal what you truly believe. If we believe the word of God, and apply the word of God, stand on the word of God, scripture shows us that we will withstand the fire and we will receive a great reward. However, for those who do not stand on the word, their work will be revealed and will suffer great loss (vv13-15).

- I believe as believers, although it may seem like we are going through the Firry Furnace, we can still come out unscathed because we paid attention to how we build, we built on the solid rock of Christ, and were mindful of the material we built with and applied it to our lives.