

**ACCM**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020. **Topic: Letter to the Corinthians Part 3**

**CHAPTER 3**

The main challenge of the Corinthian church was that they were drifting very fast into carnality and they refused to grow up spiritually as we saw in chapter 1 and Apostle Paul therefore continued in chapter 3.

How did the Corinthian Church manifest their carnality?

I Cor 3:4-5

How does this manifest in a church?

* Sitting on the ideologies of men
* Man centered Christianity Verse 5-9.
* Sitting aloof in the church and refusing to take up responsibility
* Gossip
* Refusing to see God’s servant as men like us and that whatever they may be exhibiting was given by God. Eph 4:11.
* Disrespecting men and women that God has placed over us.
* Refusal to acknowledge the grace of God in everyone
* Exaggeration of the grace of God on men
* Inability to collaborate with other brethren I Cor 3:10
* Competition amongst ministers.Ministers should complement one another and not compete with one another. I Cor 3: 5-9

Why was Paul feeding them with milk instead of solid food?

Do we have examples of Churches or brethren like that today where they are not able to appreciate solid food?

* What should that church do to bring such a church to maturity?

Verse 11-15

Verse 11. Become a wise master builder on the foundation which has been laid.

See the believers as the priority and not the building. The building might make men praise you but the believer that you have built will make God praise you.

Ensure that we do not defile the temple of the Holy Spirit

THE BUILDING AND THE BUILDER

From verses 11 – 15 Paul talked about foundations and the quality of the building set on it.

* Was Paul talking about salvation or works? Verse 15

Rom 6:23, Eph 2:8-9.

Critically examine the different materials used in the building of the temple. Verse12.

Verse 13 tells us that time will reveal the product. Pastors and church leaders and indeed all believers should realize that their work will be revealed on the day of judgement.

Paul appears not to be talking about salvation here as the foundation of salvation has been laid but he appears to be talking about work.

Which of these are you using to build or which of these are our leaders using to build on this foundation?

On the day the works will be tried it appears there will be three results Verse 14-17

* One will receive a reward Verse 14
* Another will be saved but receive no rewards Verse 15
* Another will be destroyed Verses 16-17

These works of ours will be tried by fire. Where does the quality of your work put you in God’s service? Compare this to the house build on the rock and the one built on the sand. It took the flood to reveal its quality. Matt 7:24-27.

In the picture we see today can we sometimes see some ministries and our works looking like the temple of precious stones and some looking like wood etc. Give examples of ministries and works that may look like they are building with hay and others that may look like they are building with precious stones.

By human wisdom, you may have a tremendous success: I Cor 2:4 but if your success is not empowered and sustained by God, it will burn out at some time Psalm 127:1.

Verses 11- 17 talks about three kinds of builders

* The wise/ expert builder. Verse 10
* The builder who will suffer loss (verse 15)
* The builder who will be destroyed. Verse 17

Any spiritual foundation which is not of God is fake. Acts 5:33-39.

Verse 16-17

Who is the temple?

With the latest challenges as a result of Covid 19, the issue of what and who is the temple arose.

What does Apostle Paul mean when he says we are the temple of God? I Cor 6:19, John 2: 19-21, Eph 2:19-22.

What is the privilege of been in the temple of God? II Cor 6:16.

How can someone defile the temple of God and what is the danger of defiling the temple of God?

He will be destroyed. Verse 17.

Verse 18-23.

What do you think Paul meant in verse 19 when he referred to the wisdom of this world?

How do you consider the statement of Apostle Paul that the wisdom of this age is foolishness with God?

-Politics, marriages, child upbringing, entertainment, church operations and management etc. He further says he catches the wise in their own craftiness. Can we see a lot of failures of these things?

He then says at the end of verse 19 that "He catches the wise in their own craftiness" and says in verse 20 that their thoughts are futile (worthless) Psalm 94:11. It means at the end when things are supposed to matter, they fail.

Finally he says we are Christ and Christ is God’s. Are you Christ’s? If you are not Christ’s, then all things cannot be yours no matter what the church leaders are saying to you. The first step is to ensure that you are Christ’s