

UPWARD CALL

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God

IN KING JESUS.

(Philippians 3:13-14)

#01-0701

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September 7, 2007

Jesus—No Other Foundation

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. ***For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*** (1 Corinthians 3:10-11 NASB [bold italic added])

In constructing any type of building, the most important part of the structure is the foundation, because the whole weight of the building must rest on it. The foundation is everything. If the foundation is not built properly, then the building will not withstand the many forces of nature that might come against it, such as wind, rain, temperature extremes, or violent shaking of the ground due to earthquakes. The type of soil or rock the foundation is set in, the depth of the foundation, and the materials used to construct the foundation determine its strength and the fate of the building. Foundations that are built in sand, are not dug very deep, or are constructed of inferior materials are most vulnerable to all the stresses placed on them. If the foundation is faulty, then the building will not stand. Ultimately, if not built properly and not made of the right materials, the whole building will collapse if the forces of nature shake or stress it sufficiently. Even the best-built foundations, however, are not built to last forever or to stand under every type of extreme environmental stress.

The good news is that God is building a spiritual house, a temple, which has a foundation that not only will stand the test of time but also will stand for all of eternity. It is an everlasting foundation, one without end, one that is a solid Rock.

There is only one foundation that can meet all these demands—it is none other than Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God. The spirit of God is building *a spiritual house, a holy temple in the Lord, a dwelling of God in spirit* (Ephesians 2:21-22). Notice that this building is *in the Lord*, which refers to Christ Jesus our Lord. It is in Him and in Him alone that God is building a holy temple.

Consequently, Jesus is not only the foundation but the entire structure, for it is built of His character and nature, and because of His blood. The temple of God is ***Christ all, and in all*** (Colossians 3:11). Only that which is of Christ will go into the building of this temple; everything else will be burned up.

All that we do as the Lord's people must be done in Christ, through Christ, and for Christ. We must build upon Him, our solid Rock. However, we must build upon Him with the right materials. Anything that is of man that is placed upon this foundation will be burnt up in the spiritual fire of God's righteous and moral law at the judgment seat of God.

Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire. (1 Corinthians 3:12-15 NASB)

Only gold, which represents the divine nature or character of God; silver, which represents the glorious redemption of our Lord; and precious stone, which represents the work of the Holy Spirit, will stand the test of fire. Wood, which is man's fallen nature; hay, which is man's fading and fleeting glory of sin; and straw, which is man's dead works, will be burned up by God's fire of judgment. Only that which is of the life of Christ, that which is born out of the very heart of God will last.

Gold: Gold represents love! The dwelling of God in spirit is being built according to the divine nature of God, which is love, for **God is love** (1 John 4:8, 16). The love of God has been poured out in the hearts of the body of Christ through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5), so that the spiritual temple of God can build itself up in love (Ephesians 4:16). That which is built upon Christ, the Son of God's love, through the love of God, will never fail, for **love never fails** (1 Corinthians 13:8).

Silver: Silver represents the marvelous redemptive work of the blood! The dwelling of God has been purchased with the blood of the Lamb, the very blood of God, and brought into the new covenant. **Christ in you, the hope of glory** (Colossians 1:27). We conquer through the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11), and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all confessed sin (1 John 1:7).

Precious Stone: The precious stones represent the fruit of the Holy Spirit! The dwelling of God has been given an earnest of the spirit of God (Romans 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14), so that all called out to the Lord may not only live by the spirit but also walk by the spirit (Galatians 5:22-25). The fruit is the very character of the Son of God formed in the conquerors of Christ who are being transformed from glory to glory. The precious stones are a treasure in earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:7); the glory of Christ that one day will burst forth in the *out*-resurrection of the conquerors of Christ.

If you are truly of God's household, that is, of the family of God, then you are precious in the sight of God, and He is calling you to build on no other foundation but His Son, Jesus. But you must build upon Christ with the proper materials. If you build with the materials of man that are represented by wood, hay, and straw, even if you are doing this in the name of Jesus, then at the judgment seat of Christ, all that you built will be burned up in the spiritual fire of God's judgment. That which is of man is of no value to God. Only that which is of the Son of God will endure the fire of God, which is God's divine law. All who believe in Jesus are saved, but if their works are like wood, hay, and straw, then they will lose everything at the judgment seat; **saved, yet so as through fire**.

Do not be fooled; many things today are being built in the name of Jesus, but they are merely wood, hay, and straw. They will be consumed at the great white throne of God in the day of judgment. The false prophets, the false apostles, and the many who call themselves pastors and preachers who are lovers of money and merely hirelings will be held accountable for their works of the flesh.

What are we to do in these last days before the coming of our beloved Lord Jesus?

First, it is time to ensure that we are building on the only foundation that will last, and that is Christ the Rock.

Second, we must build upon Christ with the materials that will last. We must build with the love of God, for we overwhelmingly conquer through Him (Jesus) who loves us (Romans 8:37). We must build with works of holiness and godliness, based on the redemptive power of the blood. We must build with the very character of the Lord Jesus, and this is only done as we walk by the spirit and bear the fruit of the spirit.

Are we doing all according to our own nature, the nature of the fleshly man? Are we building to our own glory and not to the glory of God? Are we building the works of man? If so, our vision of Christ is clouded, for we have been blinded by the god of this age. **It is time to repent (turn from all that is not built on the foundation of Christ) and return to Jesus and, by the spirit of God, build with the materials of God.**

Let us be more than saved, yet so as through fire. In this day of darkness, we need to see Jesus clearly. It is time to clear the foundation of all that is not of our Lord. We must discover our very foundation all anew. We must discover Jesus!

May the grace and love of God be with you!