

FBC Devotion Thursday November 25 2021 1 Corinthians 3:10-14 Build with Quality

“Because of God’s grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

Do you remember the story of the Three Little Pigs? They each built a house. One made their house of straw (it was the quickest), one built his house out of sticks, and the last one built his house out of brick. When the wolf came by he was able to blow down the house of straw and the house of sticks. The house of brick stood strong.

God is concerned for quality in His church and in the lives of His people. He wants us to build with gold, silver and precious stones. Unfortunately sometimes we’re inclined to shortcuts (wood, hay, and straw). To the naked eye it is sometimes hard to tell the difference between quality and veneer. Paul says, “God knows, God sees, and the truth will be revealed.”

It’s tempting to build God’s church and our lives using shortcuts as well. We choose to do what will draw a crowd rather than what will require commitment. We pursue what is flashy over what is solid.

We choose convenience over sacrifice. We strive to keep up with the world rather than live apart from it. We repeat sound bites rather than examining issues for ourselves (this happens even in terms of our Bible Study . . . we quote others rather than reading for ourselves)

All these things are wood, hay, and straw.

Warren Wiersbe writes, it comes as a shock to some church members that **you cannot manage a local church the same way you run a business.** This does not mean we shouldn’t follow good business principles, but the operation is totally different.

There is a wisdom of this world that works for the world, but it will not work for the church.

The world depends on promotion, prestige, and the influence of money and important people. **The church depends on prayer, the power of the Spirit, humility, sacrifice, and service.**

Notice several things. First, God is the inspector. We look at each other’s lives and all we see is what is on the surface. We don’t see the heart. We don’t see the attitude of the one who serves; we don’t see the acts done in secret. God does.

Paul challenges us to build carefully, faithfully, and diligently. Our building materials do not determine our salvation, but our reward. And someday we will stand before Him and hear Him say, “Good job!” **God will reward those who have built with quality.**