

I Corinthians 3:11-15

3 Elements Of Building A Life Of Fulfillment And Reward



Background/Context

- Author: Apostle Paul (written 56 AD)
- Audience: Paul wrote letter to believers in the church in the Greek city of Corinth
- Setting: Paul instructed and encouraged Corinthian believers in midst of many problems
- Paul instructed; every believer will have a time of evaluation on the way they lived the Christian life (this is not about eternal destination, but discipleship evaluation)

Focusing On The Finest Foundation

- (v. 11) Paul; there are many things to base a life on, but believer builds life on relationship with Jesus
- Any other “foundation” will ultimately disappoint and fail
- We can’t build a skyscraper life on a chicken coop foundation
- Greatest priority is a personal relationship with Jesus

- Matt. 7:24, “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:...”
- Matt. 7:26, “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:...”



Maintaining Meaningful Materials

- (v. 12) Paul continued: after relationship with Jesus, believers then have ability to build life of service
- Have choice of being active in discipleship and accomplishing Kingdom works (gold, silver, precious stones)
- Or, living for the temporary and self (wood, hay, stubble)
- Use of spiritual gifts in obedience with the time allowed

- Matt. 22:37-39, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Eph. 2:10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”



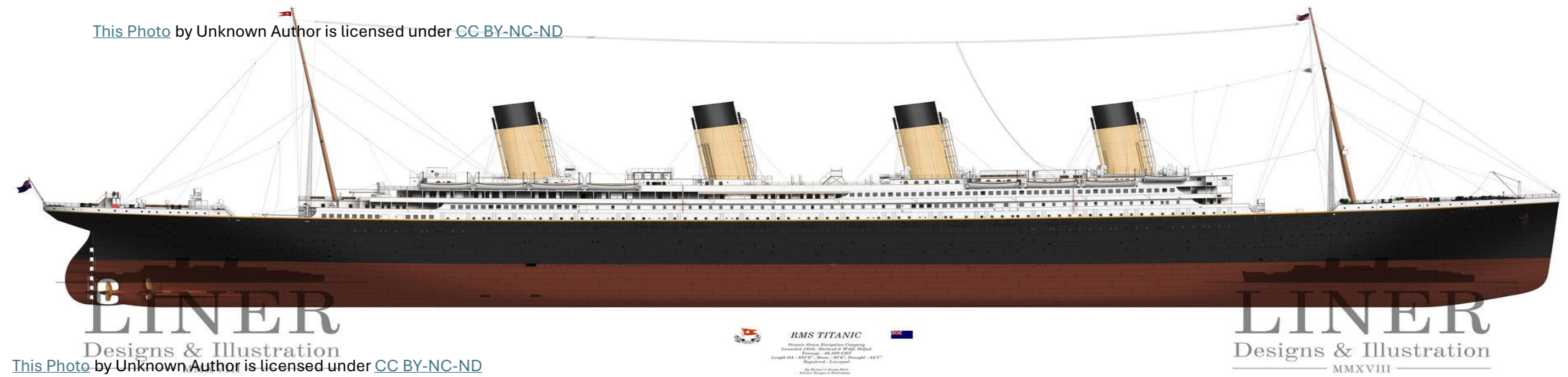
Anticipating The Eventual Inspection

- (vv. 13-15) Paul explained further, all works will be declared (divinely scrutinized)
- “clear” – “evident, known, manifest”
- “the Day” – “every believer’s day of assessment, evaluation”
- “revealed by fire” – “the honest, thorough, and righteous analysis by Jesus of how we lived the Christian life”

- Matt. 25:21, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things – now you shall be ruler over many things.”
- 2 Cors. 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”



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