

Series "Called To Be Saints"
"Ministry Minded"
1 Corinthians 3:5-23
Study-6

The Servant of God is presented many different ways in Scripture: As a Fisherman (Matthew 4:19), an Overseer (I Timothy 3:1), an Elder (Titus 1:5), a Shepherd (I Peter 5:2), and a Soldier (II Timothy 2:3); but here, Paul characterized him: as a Farmer, Builder

God's Servant Is A Farmer - In Which The Church Is The Field:

**God's Servant Is A Builder – In Which The Church Is The Building:
1 Peter 2:5**

Matthew 16:18 I will build My church;

**1 Corinthians 1:10-6:20 Reproof: The Report Of Sin In The Church:
1 Corinthians 1:10-4:21 Divisions In The Church:**

Thought of Our Passage: "God's Servants Are Like Spiritual Farmers And Builders, Whom Through God's Wisdom, Labor For That Which Is Eternal"

1. Verses 5-9 The Farmer:

2. Verses 9-23 The Builder:

1. Verses 5-9 The Farmer:

1 Corinthians 3:5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? (Context)

Paul left off confronting the Corinthian church with its carnality. That how we respond to God's wisdom determines who we are spiritually.

1 Corinthians 3:3-4

Paul describes God's Ministers in 5 ways:

1. Ministers Are Servants: Servants (ministers) – "table waiters, attending to others needs" (Character Not Rank) Which is the highest rank in God's kingdom.

2. Ministers Are Instruments: through whom you believed, - It is worldly to elevate servants of God. We are missing the purpose of service.

even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. God who opens the door of opportunity.

1 Corinthians 3:6

- 3. Ministers Plant And Water The Word: I planted,** Paul had been given the opportunity to preach the Word of God to the people. **(Mark 4:1-20 Sower and the seed, Word of God)**

Apollos watered, - When we reinforce that the Lord is good.

but God was causing the growth. We can plant and water, but spiritual growth is of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 3:7 but God who causes the growth. That is the focus, it is God. Without Him there is no life or there is no growth.

John 15

1 Corinthians 3:8

Unity Of Purpose: Now he who plants and he who waters are one;

- 4. Ministers Will Receive A Reward: but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. Romans 2:11**

1 Corinthians 3:9

- 5. Ministers Are Fellow Workers: For we are God's fellow workers;**

2. Verses 9-23 The Builder:

1 Corinthians 3:9 God's building. We are part of a structure.

1 Peter 2:5

1 Corinthians 3:10 Grace – Is UN-earned, UN-merited, UN-deserved favor of God.

Grace is not only Salvation but Ennoblement

like a wise master builder - Paul is a "*Contractor*" Jesus is the "*Architect*"
What made Paul think that he was wise? Paul realized that true wisdom comes from God. Christ had revealed to Paul the blueprint for the church **(Ephesians 2:19-3:12), Wise is building according to God's plan!**

I laid a foundation, 1 Corinthians 3:11 which is Jesus Christ.

What Paul did was preach Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 2:1-2**

and another is building on it. There were other teachers that were being used by God

Believers Are Personally Building: But each man must be careful how he builds on it. Personal side to building.

(All Christians) Need to see ministry as a divine work! Life is all about building, it is building character

1 Corinthians 3:11

Foundation - is the Life, Work, and Word of Jesus Christ that is the foundation of the church.

The foundation is the most important part of the building, because it determines the size, shape, and strength of the superstructure.

- 1. Foundation of the Traditions of Religion –**
- 2. Foundation of the Organization –**
- 3. Foundation on One Doctrine or Teaching –**
- 4. Foundation of Man or a Person –**

Verses – 12-17 Materials For Building: 1 Corinthians 3:12

Now if any man builds on the foundation

Paul mentions 2 different types of materials.

Permanent Materials - gold, (Service in the Holy Spirit) silver (Price of Sacrifice) precious stones, (steadfast service, stability) Will withstand the test -

Proverbs 3:13-15; Proverbs 8:10-11

Temporal Materials - wood, (careless service no one will ever know) hay, (grass looks good but worthless) straw, (left-overs from the wheat)
These are all materials that you can gather in a backyard.

1 Corinthians 2:8

That we need to be reminded that **1 Corinthians 1-3** Is dealing with wisdom.

What kind of character are you building through your ministry?

Verses 13-15 The Inspection: 1 Corinthians 3:13 (Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10) What did he do? How did he do it? Why did he do it? The Day of Judgment

1 Corinthians 3:14-15 If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; The fire serves as the trial, not as a punishment for sin after the trial.

but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. He is not the one that is burned but his works of labor are destroyed.

2 Corinthians 5:10 "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ"

Revelation 1:14 "His eyes are like a flame of fire," **2 Corinthians 5:10**

Verses 16-23 The Warning: 1 Corinthians 3:16 (Paul's 3 Warnings)

- 1. Verses 16-17 Warning - Don't Defile God's Temple, His People: Do you not know that you are a temple of God,**

and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? *This is the difference between the Christian and the non-Christian is whether the Holy Spirit resides in our lives.*

1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him,

This is a reference to those that would attack the church of Jesus Christ.

for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are. We are temples in which the Lord dwells.

- 2. Verses 18-20 Warning - Don't Be Drawn To Worldly Wisdom: 1 Corinthians 3:18** Let no man deceive himself.

If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, -
Those apart from God's wisdom thinking that they are truly wise!

he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. - He is saying let him humble himself by receiving God's wisdom, that he may be truly wise.

1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. Some of the idiotic counsel

For it is written, "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS"; Scripture exposes it. **Job 5:13**

1 Corinthians 3:20 **Psalm 94:11**

3. Verses - 21-23 Warning - Don't Glory In Men: 1 Corinthians 3:21 So then let no one boast in men. His wisdom is foolishness.

For all things belong to you, Paul is speaking about all things in Jesus Christ! **Ephesians 1:3**

1 Corinthians 3:22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas These teachers are not the property of the individual but to the Lord.

all things belong to you, When we received Jesus Christ we received all things.

1 Corinthians 3:23 and you belong to Christ; (Christian Responsibility)

Application:

- 1.** Do I See Myself As A Spiritual Farmer? Planting, Watering?
- 2.** Do I See Myself As A Builder? Am I Building On The Right Foundation? Is It On Jesus Christ? Or Man, Tradition, Works, Or A Single Doctrine?
- 3.** What Materials Am I Building With? Spiritual Or Temporal?
- 4.** Am I Really A Part Of The Church? Is Jesus Dwelling In Me?
- 5.** Am I Focusing On God Or Man?