

Last time: The pastoral ministry judged:

- 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
 - 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.
 - 18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.
 - 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.
 - 20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.
 - 21 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;
 - 22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;
 - 23 And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.
- As we pick up in (V16), Paul begins with a question of reproof for the Corinthian Church; one of those don't you know this, questions.

(V16): Know ye not: Or, don't you know that YOU believer, are the temple of God; and, don't you know that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Think about what we learned the last two (2) Lord's Days; specifically, what is written to the Corinthian believers in (3:9), when Paul said ye are God's building.

What building? The church, the temple or habitation of God.

And then Paul admonished the Pastor's, called builders, let every man, (or every minister) take heed how he buildeth thereupon. Remember they were in Greece; they highly valued worldly wisdom, but Paul was teaching them that the church is not built with worldly wisdom!

God dwells in this building; therefore, it must be built precisely in accordance with God's Word if He would inhabit it!

In the OT, (Book of the Exodus), God gave Moses precise instructions for the building of the tabernacle, which was the place in which God would dwell in the

The tabernacle would eventually give way to the Temple, built by Solomon; this was the House of the Lord that David desired to build, but was told by the Lord, thou shalt not build me a house, but my son will do so.

Who was the architect of both the tabernacle and temple? God was! God commanded Moses in the pattern (architecture) and materials for the tabernacle, and God gave Solomon wisdom in the building and materials to build the temple.

2 Chronicles 2:18 tells us how many workers/overseers were employed in the building of the temple. (Remember 1

Kings 6:7)

If God was going to dwell in the tabernacle/put His Name on the temple, it MUST be built according to His commands/plans/materials. This was to be no ordinary house.

Exodus 39:43, 40:1-2, 33-34

That brings us back to our text in 1 Corinthians 3; Christian, NOW YOU are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you, THE CHURCH is no ordinary house, therefore, whoever BUILDS in the church, and on the one true foundation of Jesus Christ, he must do it according to God's pattern; in accordance with God's Word and commands and truth!

Back to Paul's two (2) DON'T YOU KNOW THIS questions:

Don't you know that YOU are the temple of God? The Spirit of God dwells in EVERY born-again believer! The lost and unsaved do not possess the Spirit of God within; but YOU Christian DO!

John 3:6: That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

God does not dwell in temples made with hands; He dwells in you Christian! 1 Corinthians 6:19, 2 Corinthians 6:16,

Ephesians 2:19-22

This truth should greatly humble you Christian! To be the habitation of God OUGHT to and MUST BE life altering! Every action, intention, thought, and every word spoken by us as children of God should be sanctified by the Spirit of God and prayer. We should live and speak as citizens of the Kingdom of Christ! What you do in your body and in this life, and what you speak as a Christian, matters greatly! 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Paul's 2nd don't you know this question in actuality part of the same question, (V16): Know ye not (or don't you know) that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? Romans 8:5-9, John 14:16-17

One more point that I would like to make concerning the Spirit of God is His divinity: Understand here, that the Holy Spirit IS GOD!

Think about it: If the Spirit of God IN YOU makes you or TRANSFORMS YOU into the temple of God, then the Spirit of God is NOT subordinate to God; He is, in fact, and every bit the Person of God and co-equal with the Father and the Son!

Isaiah 40:12-14, Matthew 28:19

Christian, if the Spirit of God is God, then God dwells is in you! If God is in you, you are holy!

THIS in and of itself demonstrates to us genuine and false Christianity; if the Spirit of God dwells within someone, that person CANNOT continue to be habitually sinful, worldly, dead in their sins; the same person that they always were in times past; there MUST be a radical change.

2 Corinthians 5:17, Titus 3:1-7

Therefore: Every builder, (every Pastor) should take heed of how he is building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ and Him crucified! (READ V17)

Defile here means to ruin or corrupt. Interesting that the English words defile and destroy are the same Greek words. They mean the same thing. #5351.

God here is warning builders who would intentionally build upon the foundation of Christ with other materials, such as worldly wisdom, human opinions, false teaching, and/or man-made traditions and doctrines, and NOT with the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

This is how the church is corrupted, ruined and defiled in our day brethren; by deceitful workers/builders and false prophets.

Acts 20:28-32, 2 Peter 2:1-3, Jude 3-4

If a builder defiles the church of Jesus Christ, intending to ruin and corrupt God's church, God declares, I will destroy you! Make no mistake, God will preserve His church (from the gates of hell); and from being destroyed by false teachers; who are the instruments of Satan's evil intentions. They will not succeed. The gates of hell shall NOT prevail against the church!

The wisdom of this world has no place in the church of Christ!

(V18-19)

If any pastor/minister/builder seems (or thinks) he is wise in this world; 1st of all; the wisdom of this world; man-made doctrines MUST not be employed in the church. And 2nd: If any builder would be truly wise and used as a faithful pastor/builder in the church, he must FIRST become a fool; he must forget all of his own wisdom and worldly doctrines; once he does that, now he may be useful in the church.

(V19): The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. Those builders who think to build the church of Christ with the methods and practices and sayings of the world and by the wisdom of men; God will destroy their ministries! (V19B-20)
Job 5:12-13, Psalm 94:11.

Therefore: DO NOT glory or boast in men: (V21-23)

NEVER exalt and glorify preachers! Don't glory in men, this does not please God. If you're going to glory, rejoice, or boast, let it be in the Lord.

Jeremiah 9:23-24, Romans 1:21-22, 1 Corinthians 4:6

For all things are yours: Paul initially defines all things to be gifts given to the church for its edification and building upon the one true foundation of Christ, which (V22) further explains to be gospel ministers!

Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas.

But he continues to show all things to be the world, or life, or death, or things present, to things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

So important for you to STUDY for yourself, to shew yourself to be approved unto God!

KNOW the wisdom of God in the Word, and you will not be deceived by the wisdom of this world!

The holy scriptures are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.