

# The Only Foundation

## 1 Corinthians 3:9-11

Last week we considered the church as God's \_\_\_\_\_ ; this week we consider a 2<sup>nd</sup> metaphor: God's building  
2 misconceptions can keep us from understanding this passage, like a wrong answer in a \_\_\_\_\_ puzzle

- 1) The building is not bricks and mortar; rather it symbolizes of the \_\_\_\_\_ who compose a local church  
Vv.16-17 compare believers to a particular kind of building: a temple, in fact, the \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Many think this passage is about the individual believer building on the foundation in his/her own life, but v.9 and vv.16-17 are plural—"you all" and the text focuses on how we build in the lives of \_\_\_\_\_ in the church

### I. WHO IS DOING THE CONSTRUCTION?

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ Is the Wise "Master-Builder"

- 1) "Master-Builder" is the word in the original language that gives us our English word \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) But in ancient times the architect not only designed the building, he was also the \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. \_\_\_\_\_ Is the Owner (V.9—"God's building")

- 1) God is the one who wants the building built; He is the one who "hired" \_\_\_\_\_ as the architect
- 2) Verse 10 also mentions \_\_\_\_\_ —others who built on the foundation that Paul laid

#### C. God the Owner Supplies the \_\_\_\_\_ Needed by Paul the Master-Builder to Construct the Building

- 1) The architect must submit a list of \_\_\_\_\_ needed to construct the building to the owner
- 2) No workman (believer) can build up others in the local church without the grace that \_\_\_\_\_ supplies
- 3) V.10: we build "according to" the amount of grace God gives: we have not because we \_\_\_\_\_ not

### II. HOW ARE THEY CONSTRUCTING THE FOUNDATION?

#### A. The Foundation Is \_\_\_\_\_ :The Foundation Is Relational/Personal

- 1) To be saved, to lay this foundation, we must have a faith \_\_\_\_\_ with a person, Jesus
- 2) Matthew 7:21-23 warns many will claim Jesus at the last day and He will say, "I never \_\_\_\_\_ you"

#### B. The Foundation Is Christ \_\_\_\_\_ :The Foundation Is Doctrinal

- 1) According to 1 Corinthians 1, Paul preached Christ crucified at Corinth: Jesus is a person, but He is described by certain key truths—the foundation includes believing certain \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus
- 2) We disciple converts to ensure they believe in the Jesus of the \_\_\_\_\_ not a Jesus of their own making

#### C. The Local Church Must Be Built upon a Foundation of \_\_\_\_\_ Believers

- 1) It is only on this foundation—a faith relationship with Jesus Christ—that we can build a local \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) If this foundation is NOT in place, there will be \_\_\_\_\_ when we try to build on the foundation
- 3) Some local churches invite disaster by trying to shortcut the foundation of the church in 2 ways:
  - a) Some preach a watered-down \_\_\_\_\_ that does not mention sin or explain why Jesus had to die
  - b) Others pay little attention to who joins the church because they want to build a \_\_\_\_\_ church
- 4) The \_\_\_\_\_ of the foundation determines what we can build on top of it and how long it will last