

Doing The Lord's Work Locally

1 Cor. 3:5-17

Introduction:

- A. Paul likens the local church to a 1) field and a 2) building (v. 9).
- B. Paul emphasizes two phases of the Lord's work in a community.

Discussion:

I. The Establishment Phase — Planting or Laying Foundation.

- A. Paul had planted the right seed — laid the proper foundation (v. 10-11; 2:1-5).
 - 1. Word of God is seed of the kingdom.
 - 2. Revelation of Christ through Apostles and prophets is foundation. (Eph. 2:1-3:5).
- B. Requires careful work and planning. (“wise master builder”)
- C. Congregations do not always have right foundation.
 - 1. Following men (personalities) rather than Christ (v. 4)
 - 2. Human tradition and doctrine. (Matt. 15:9, 13)
 - 3. Factional strife and selfish ambition. (Phil 2:3).
 - 4. Social and economic factors (Gal. 3:28)
 - 5. Such need to rework foundation — replant the field.

II. The Follow-up Phase — Watering and Building Upon.

- A. Calls for workers — “God’s workers” — busy watering and building.
 - 1. Every figure of a Christian suggest activity — workers, soldiers.
 - 2. To abound in work and labor. (1 Cor. 15:58).
- B. Calls for united effort. (v. 3-8).
- C. Calls for personal responsibility (v. 8).
- D. Calls for careful building. (vv. 10-15).
 - 1. Gold, silver, precious stones — converted, solid, properly motivated.
 - 2. Wood, hay, straw — unconverted, improperly motivated.
 - 3. Work will be tested (v. 13)
 - a. If endures we will have reward. (v 14)
 - b. If burned we will have loss — we can still be saved (v. 15).
- E. Calls for maintaining purity (v. 17).
- F. Call for exalting God.
 - 1. “God’s ...” (v. 9).
 - 2. God’s wisdom. (vv. 18-23).

Conclusion:

- A. Let us be sure that we are resting on a solid foundation.
- B. Let us strive to build up this church with solid material.