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.
   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.