

Speaker: Pastor Buster Brown

Today's Message:

How to Live as Productive, Glad, Confident Stewards in the Grace of Christ
(or Building on a Glorious Foundation With Gold, Silver and Costly Stones)

Today's Text: 1 Corinthians 3:10-19, Isaiah 40:31

“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. 16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. 18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their craftiness.’” **1 Corinthians 3:10-19**

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” **Isaiah 40:31**

We experience the empowering presence of the Lord when we embrace the habits of grace (the Centrality of Scripture, Christian Fellowship, STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE, and the Rhythms of the Holy Spirit, as we live in an attitude of worship/prayer.)

A steward manages e_____ resources.

**How to Live in Such a Way That We Build
on the Foundation with Gold, Silver, and Costly Stones**

1. The foundation must always be s_____

“My dear Wormwood,

The real trouble about the set your patient is living in is that it is merely Christian. They all have individual interests, of course, but the bond remains mere Christianity. What we want, if men become Christians at all, is to keep them in the state of mind I call ‘Christianity And’. You know—Christianity and the Crisis, Christianity and the New Psychology, Christianity and the New Order, Christianity and Faith Healing, Christianity and Psychical Research, Christianity and Vegetarianism, Christianity and Spelling Reform. If they must be Christians let them at least be Christians with a difference. Substitute for the faith itself some Fashion with a Christian colouring. Work on their horror of the Same Old Thing....

Your affectionate uncle, SCREWTAPE”

CS Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

It is inevitable that the “add-ons” will become the focus of our attention unless we constantly return to the glory and wonder of the cross, and the substitution of Jesus for our sins.

2. We should be c_____ as we build on this foundation (or keenly observant, watchful, attentive, searchingly considerate)

This careful living is in contrast to the arrogance of I Corinthians 3:18-19 and 4:6.

3. The Day will bring it to light.

“As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin; and for the greater c_____ of the godly in their a_____: so will He have that day u_____ to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen.”

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 33:3

4. There will be rewards given to believers based upon their faithfulness. Some will have built on the glorious foundation with gold, silver, and costly stones, while others have built with wood, hay, and straw. (1 Corinthians 3:13-15)

“...but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.”

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 33:1

5. God will not be mocked. (Understand the critical importance of what we believe, teach, and live. I Corinthians 2:16-17)

ANSWER KEY: entrusted, supreme, careful, consolation, adversity

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why were the Corinthians referred to as “fleshly” or “infants in Christ” who were “not ready for solid food”? (i Corinthians 3:1-2)
2. Do you believe it is inevitable that the “add-ons” will become the focus of our lives unless we constantly return to the glory and wonder of the cross?
3. What was Paul’s fear? (Galatians 2:2, 4:11, Philippians 2:16, I Thessalonians 3:5)
4. How do we live today in light of that Day?
5. Who are some people in your life whose teaching and life application speaks of building with gold, silver, and costly stones? How can you express your thanksgiving toward them?

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