**Topic:** The Apostle Paul: A Warning

**Date:** February 17, 2019

**Introduction:** Paul’s teaching included making known the “mystery of the gospel” (Ephesians 6:19), and the preaching of doctrine known as “the truth”:

Romans 9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

The truth is that body of doctrine communicated by Paul in the epistles Romans through Philemon. It includes the “gospel of your salvation” (Ephesians 1:13), and will be the basis by which all will be judged:

Romans 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

In the day of judgement, Paul speaks of fire that will reveal “every man’s work” (1Corinthians 3:13). Paul teaches if any man’s work shall be burned that man will suffer loss, but yet he himself shall be saved: revealed by fire.

Paul reminds the believer that they are the “temple of God” (1Corinthians 3:16), that the Spirit of God dwells in the believer. Paul then states:

1Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

What will happen to any man that defiles the temple of God where Paul writes, “…him shall God **destroy**…”?

**Remember:** Paul writes only to those that are saved; **believers** in the Gospel of Grace.

**Note:** Recommend use of a dictionary to check the actual meaning of words.

**Study:**

1. Read: 1Timothy 2:1-4
   1. What do you read to be the two desires of God our Savior for “all men”? Verse 4
2. Read: 1Corinthians 3:9-17
   1. What does the word “husbandry” mean? Verse 9
   2. Who is “God’s building”? Verse 9
   3. Who laid the “foundation”? Verse 10
      1. What is a “masterbuilder” (i.e.: master builder)?
   4. Who is the “foundation”? Verse 11
   5. How does the Bible depict gold, silver and precious stones? Verse 12
      1. See Proverbs 16:16, 20:15
      2. How would we know to read the Proverbs to determine a Biblically correct depiction of gold, silver, and precious stones? Romans 15:4
   6. Paul points to “the day” when “every man’s work will be made manifest” Verse 13
      1. What does the word “manifest” mean?
      2. What will “fire” do on “the day”?
      3. What does fire do to wood, hay and stubble?
      4. What does fire do to gold, silver, and precious stone?
   7. What will happen for the man whose “work” abides (i.e.: remains)? Verse 14
   8. What will happen for the man whose “work” is burned? Verse 15
      1. But, what does Paul say will happen to the man “himself”?
      2. CHALLENGE QUESTION: What, in this verse, does the “fire” do?
   9. Who or what is the “temple of God”? Verse 16
      1. Where does the “Spirit of God reside”? (See also Ephesians 1:13)
   10. CHALLENGE QUESTION: What does it mean to “defile the temple of God”? Verse 17
       1. Hint: keep in mind what Paul just wrote as to who is the “temple of God” in the context of this passage.
       2. Hint: remember what you studied (item e.) that is depicted by the Bible as “gold, silver, precious stones”.
       3. Hint: Think – what would be a defilement of the believer?
   11. CHALLENGE QUESTION: How should one understand the phrase (verse 17), “…him shall God destroy…”?
       1. Hint: the word is “destroy”, not, for instance, annihilate or kill, etc.
       2. Hint: What does the word “destroy” mean?
3. Read: Colossians 1:24-29
   1. What did Paul experience for the sake of the Body of Christ and “to fulfil the word of God” Verse 24, 25
      1. Consider what Paul was thought to be in the following references:
         1. Galatians 4:16
         2. 2Timothy 2:9
   2. Of whom does Paul preach, and what is his “**warning**”? Verse 28

**Conclusion:** (your own understanding)