

1 Corinthians

Chapter 3

1

How this study handout is structured

We will go
verse by verse
(as appropriate)

Matthew 1:1

Scripture references
are found at the end of
the slides in the
handout

Scripture is NIV
from the Quest
Study Bible
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- The book of the generation. This is the proper title of the chapter. It is the same as to say, "The account of the ancestry or family, or the genealogical table of Jesus Christ." The phrase is common in Jewish writings. Compare [Ge 5:1](#), "This is the book of the generations of Adam," that is, the genealogical table of the family or descendants of Adam.

- **Matthew 1:1** This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Barnes

The Bible software
used for references
and KJV scripture is
from SwordSearcher

Different references will be used.
In this case Albert Barnes Notes on the Bible.
This is a clickable link if you have the
SwordSearcher Bible Software

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<https://www.swordsearcher.com/>

If you would like a pdf copy of this handout email james293504@gmail.com

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Bible Study Meeting Information

9:00 am Wednesday, 6:45 pm Wednesday

In Person

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 75 Pine Lakes Parkway, Palm Coast Florida 32164

Zoom

Click on the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4497575748?pwd=iKMcS9qbngU-vcQo2zCt7lgy9QjRZW8X>

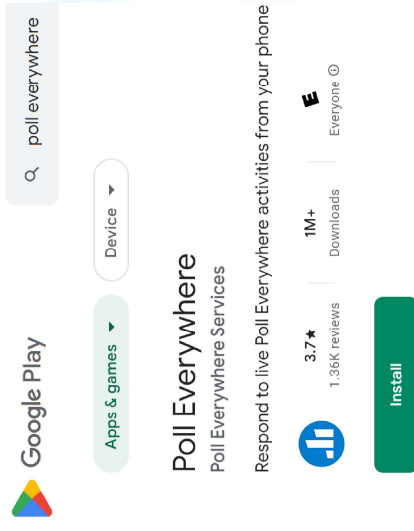
Or Go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter
Meeting ID → 449 757 5748, Passcode 04092006

Or Dial in at 312-626-6799 or 929-205-6099
Enter meeting ID 449 757 5748#
Enter Password 04092006

3

Polling

- **By QR Code** (Pollev.com)
QR Code allows you vote and/or to download the app
- **By text** → Send **jamesbrown897** to **22333**
- **There is also an app** you can download
an open to avoid using the QR code every time
- If you want personalized help getting the polling app on your phone I (James Brown), Linda Murray, Deacon Robinson or Angela Simpson are willing to assist you in getting set up.



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1 Corinthians - Outline

I. THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD. SEPARATION AND TESTIMONY. CHAPTERS 1-10

1. What Grace Has Done and the Assurance which Grace Gives. Chapter 1:1-9.

2. Contrasts. Chapter 1:10-4.

3. Corinthian Failures. Chapters 5-6.

4. Concerning the Relationship of Man and Woman. Chapter 7.

5. Concerning Meats Offered to Idols. Liberty Governed by Love. Chapter 8.

6. Paul's Gracious Example. Chapter 9.

7. Concluding Warnings and Exhortations. Chapter 10.

5

We are still here!

1 Corinthians - Outline

II. THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST. CHAPTERS 11-14

1. The Headship of Christ and of Man. The Lords Supper. Chapter 11.

2. The Body and the Members of the Body. Chapter 12.

3. The Need and Superiority of Love. Chapter 13.

4. Prophecy and Speaking with Tongues. Chapter 14.

III. RESURRECTION AND THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH. CONCLUSIONS.

CHAPTERS 15-16

1. The Doctrine of Resurrection and the Hope of the Church. Chapter 15.

2. Instruction and Greetings. Chapter 16.

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Chapter 3 Background and Introduction

- The design of this chapter is substantially the same as the former. It is to reprove the pride, the philosophy, the vain wisdom on which the Greeks so much rested; and to show that the gospel was not dependent on that for its success, and that that had been the occasion of no small part of the contentions and strife's which had arisen in the church at Corinth. The chapter is occupied mainly with an account of his own ministry with them; and seems designed to meet an objection which either *was* made, or *could have been made* by the Corinthians themselves, or by the false teacher that was among them.

Barnes

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Chapter 3 Background and Introduction

- How wonderfully the tone of this wonderful man changes as he addresses the Church at Corinth. It is a dramatic study even, if it be nothing else; as a piece of literature, it might arrest the attention of inquisitive and well-read men. Paul addresses the Corinthians in the first instance as if they were everything that could be wished; and then he takes them to pieces bone by bone, and plucks off every feather, and asks them to look at themselves, and be ashamed of themselves; and in the very midst of all this pastoral desolation he tells them that they are the temple of the Holy Ghost. **The whole method is Pauline, irregular, abrupt, sometimes violent, and then counterbalancing its violence by such tenderness. ... →**

Parker

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Chapter 3 Background and Introduction

- There is no mistaking this man's style; to read it is to walk over acres of rocks, miles of great boulder stones, coming every now and then upon large green places through which silver streamlets are running, and over which birds are singing, as if detained by unusual beauty.

Chapter 3 Background and Introduction

1. The Carnal State of the Corinthians (verses 1-9)
2. The Workmen and their Work (verses 10-15)
3. The Church the Temple of God (verses 16-17)
4. Warning against Deception and Glorifying in Men (verses 18-23)

Contextual Reading 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

The Carnal State of the Corinthians

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings? ⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

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Contextual Reading 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

The Carnal State of the Corinthians

⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

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1 Corinthians 3:1

- **Spiritual**; advanced in spiritual knowledge, and prepared to understand and profit by the higher and more difficult truths of the gospel. **Carnal**; having little religious knowledge or spiritual discernment; being still much under the influence of evil. Christians when first converted are indeed born of God, and are in some measure like him, but they are infants, not men, in the divine life. They need such instructions as are suited to those who are young, feeble, and but just beginning spiritually to live.

FBN

- 1 Corinthians 3:1
Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ.

13

1 Corinthians 3:1

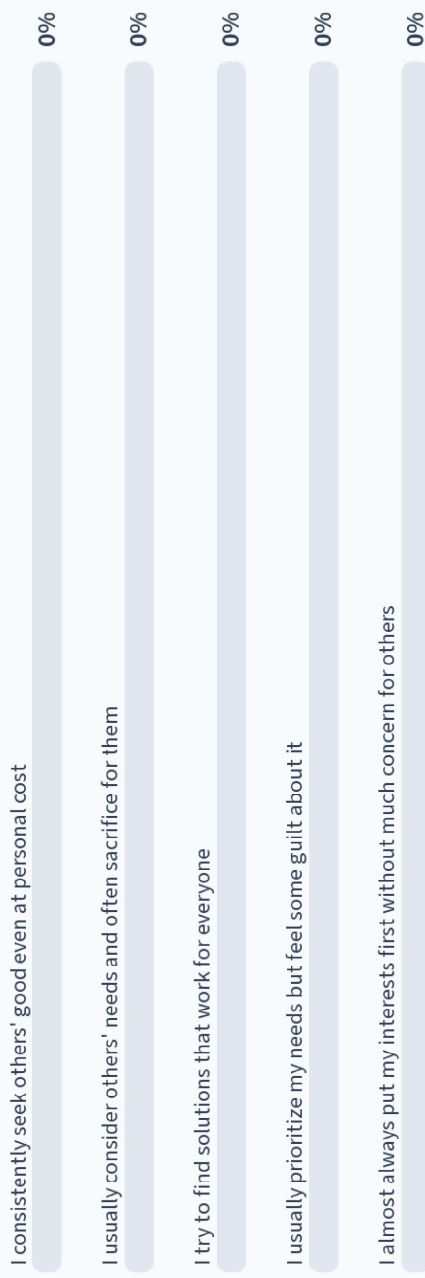
- Learn that even amongst those who are the true and real members of the visible church, some are spiritual, some are carnal: some are men, some are babes. The apostle does not call them absolutely carnal, as if they were wholly given up to the works of the flesh; but comparatively so, having too much carnality and corruption in them, and savoring too much of the flesh, though for the main truly pious: and therefore he uses the word **as** for mitigation sake; I could not speak unto you, but **as** unto carnal.

Burkitt

What are some examples of savoring too much of the flesh?

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Self Check on - Savoring too much of the flesh (Love for Others vs. Self-Interest) --> When making decisions that affect both you and others, how often do you prioritize others' needs over your own comfort/benefit?



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1 Corinthians 3:1

- THE GRADUATING METHOD OF TEACHING. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk," etc. Truth is to be administered with a practical regard to the receptive powers of the student, just as the administration of bodily food must have regard to the digestive capacities of those who need it; "milk" for children, "meat" for men. This is Paul's metaphor; though men might live on milk, strong meat would kill children. There are truths in the gospel of such an elevated character, requiring so much intellect and culture to appreciate them, that to enforce them on the attention of mental and moral children would be positively to injure them. →

1 Corinthians 3:1

- Christ practiced this method of teaching. He had many things to say which his disciples could not bear. Had he preached to them the doctrines of the cross at first, they would have been shocked. When at one time they were merely intimidated, they produced a kind of revulsion in Peter, and he exclaimed, "That be far from thee, Lord." This method of teaching shows:
- 1. That a minister that may be useful to one class of men may be unprofitable to another.
- 2. The necessity of all who would enjoy the higher teaching to cultivate their mental and moral powers.

1 Corinthians 3:2

Hebrews 5:11-14 (NIV)

- ¹¹We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹²In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

- 1 Corinthians 3:2
I gave you milk,
not solid food,
for you were not
yet ready for it.
Indeed, you are
still not ready.

Hebrews 5:14

Hypostatic refers to the theological concept of the "hypostatic union"
- the doctrine that Jesus Christ exists as one person (hypostasis) with two complete and distinct natures: fully divine and fully human.

- *But strong meat is for the mature*; but those great, deep, and high mysteries of the gospel concerning Christ's natures, their **hypostatical union**, his offices, his actual fulfilling all his types in the Old Testament both personal and mystical, with the prophecies of his gospel church state, and his mediatory kingdom, &c., these are the strong meat and food of grown Christians, who have reached some maturity in the knowledge of these gospel mysteries, and are of a full age in understanding; reaching on to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ in knowledge and grace, [Eph 4:13](#).

Poole

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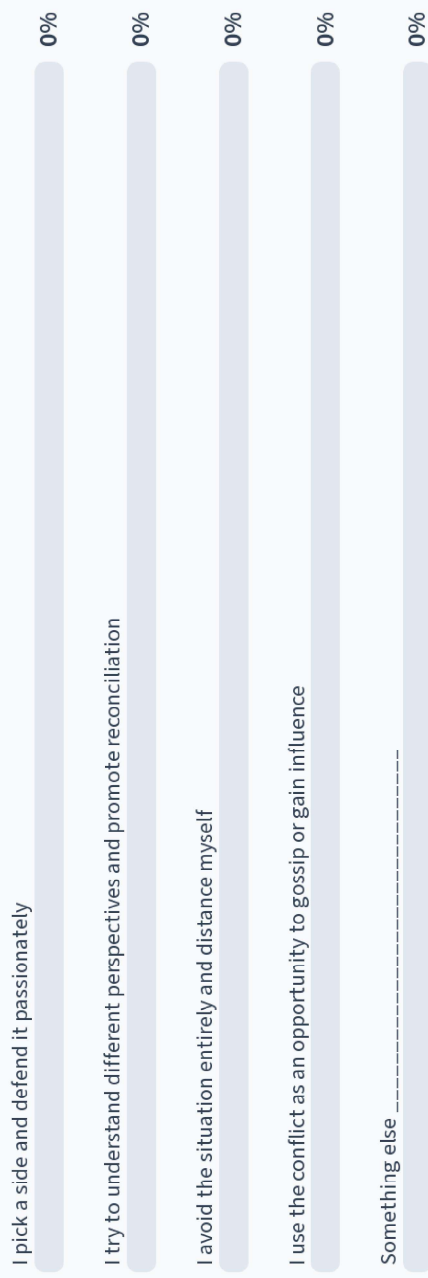
1 Corinthians 3:3

- Partisanship and discord, the sins of the Corinthians—sins which have disgraced so many ages of Church history—are works of the flesh, [[Ga 5:19-21](#) and involve many other sins, {[Jas 3:16](#)} and are therefore sure proofs of the carnal mind, **though they are usually accompanied by a boast of superior spiritual enlightenment**. As men; that is, "as men, not as Christians." To walk as a mere ordinary human being is not to "walk in the Spirit"; [[Ga 5:25](#)]
- **1 Corinthians 3:3**
You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

Pulpit

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How do you typically respond when there's conflict in your church or Christian community?



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1 Corinthians 3:3

- But how could the apostle here call the Corinthians carnal, and babes in Christ, when in [1Co 1:5](#) he affirmed that they were **enriched with all knowledge and utterance**?
- 1. **Spiritual gifts vs. spiritual maturity** - Paul distinguishes between the spiritual gifts that God had abundantly given the Corinthians and their spiritual maturity. They possessed remarkable gifts of speech and knowledge, but this didn't automatically translate to spiritual wisdom or mature Christian behavior.



1 Corinthians 3:3

2. **Positional vs. practical sanctification** - The Corinthians were "enriched" in their position in Christ with spiritual gifts, but their practical living showed carnality - divisions, immorality, and worldly thinking that characterized spiritual immaturity.
3. **God's gifts vs. human response** - The gifts mentioned in 1:5 were God's gracious endowments to the church, while the carnality in chapter 3 reflected their human response and application of those gifts. Having knowledge doesn't guarantee using it wisely.



1 Corinthians 3:3

4. **Progressive sanctification** - Paul's approach shows that believers can simultaneously possess spiritual resources while still being in process of growing into maturity. The Corinthians had the tools for spiritual growth but weren't yet applying them consistently.
 - **2 Peter 3:18** - "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"
 - **Ephesians 4:15** - "But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ"
 - **2 Corinthians 3:18** - "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord"



1 Corinthians 3:4

- Not that Christians in so large a city as Corinth might not put themselves under several pastors, or, as to themselves, prefer one before another, either in respect of the more eminent gifts of God bestowed upon one, ... or in respect of the more suitableness of one man's gifts to their capacities than another: but their adherence so to one minister of the gospel, that for his sake they vilified and despised all others, that were also true and faithful servants of God in the work of his gospel, this was their sin, ...

Poolle

- 1 Corinthians 3:4
For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings?

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1 Corinthians 3:5

- Neither Paul, nor yet Apollos, are authors of faith to you, but only instruments; it is the Lord that giveth to every man a power to believe; or else that latter phrase, *as the Lord assigned each to his task*, may be understood of ministers, whose abilities to the work of the ministry, and success in it, both depend upon God. The sense of the words is this, then: God giveth unto his ministers variety of gifts, and different success; but neither one nor the other of them are more than the servants of Christ in their ministry, persons whom God maketh use of to call upon and to prevail with men, to give credit to the doctrine of the gospel, and to receive and accept of Christ. **The work is the Lord's, not theirs.**

Poolle

- 1 Corinthians 3:5
What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task.

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1 Corinthians 3:5

- The Apostle now proceeds to explain ([1Co 3:5-9](#)) what is the true position and work of Christian ministers. He asserts that all alike—both those who teach the simpler truths, and those who build up upon that primary knowledge—are only instruments in God's hand; and in [1Co 3:10-15](#) (replying to those who sneered at and despised his simple teaching as compared to the higher instruction of Apollos) he points out that though all are only instruments used by God, yet that if there be any difference of honor or utility in the various kinds of work for which God so uses His ministers, the greater work is the planting the seed, or the laying the foundation. There can be only one foundation—it is alike necessary and unvarying—many others may build upon it, with varied material and with different results.

Ellicott

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1 Corinthians 3:6-7

- It will be seen by the account in [Ac 18:24,27-28](#), that Apollos commenced his ministry in Corinth, after Paul had left it.
- God honored me first to preach the gospel amongst you, and blessed my preaching to convert you unto Christ; then I left you: Apollos stayed behind, and he *watered* what I had *planted*, daily preaching amongst you; see [Ac 18:24-26](#); he was a further means to build you up in faith and holiness; but God increased, or gave *the increase*, God gave the power by which you brought forth any fruit. →

Abbott

- **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**
I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

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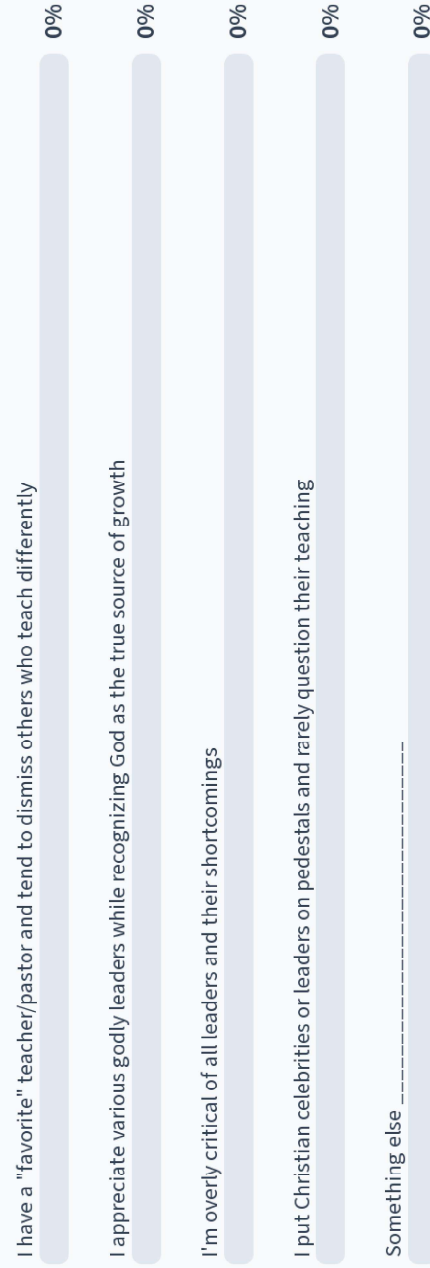
1 Corinthians 3:6-7

- The similarity is drawn from planters, whether husbandmen or gardeners; they plant, they water, but the growing, the budding, the bringing forth flowers or fruit by the plant, depends more upon the soil in which it stands, the influence of heaven upon it, by the beams of the sun, and the drops of the dew and rain, and the internal virtue which the God of nature hath created in the plant, than upon the hand of him that planted, or him who used his watering pot to water it. So it is with souls; one minister is used for conversion, or the first changing of souls; another is used for edification, or further building up of souls; but both conversion and edification are infinitely more from the new heart and new nature, which God gives to souls, and from the influence of the Sun of righteousness by the Spirit of grace, working in and upon the soul, than from any minister, who is but God's instrument in those works.

Poole

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What is your attitude toward Christian leaders and teachers?



1 Corinthians 3:8

- God does not reward his servants according to the success of their labor, because that depends on himself; but he rewards them according to the extent of faithful labor which they bestow on his work. In this sense none can say, I have labored in vain and spent my strength for nothing. Clarke
- The reward is something over and above personal salvation ([1Co 3:14-15](#); [2Jo 8](#)). JFBu
- **2 John 8 (KJV)** Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

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- **1 Corinthians 3:8**
The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.

1 Corinthians 3:9

- Though compared with God we are nothing, yet our station is no unimportant station; God works as the principal efficient Cause, we work with God as his instruments; God works one way, by his secret influence upon the heart, we another way, by publication of the gospel in people's ears, but the scope and end of the work is the same. The Lord is said to work with his ministers, [Mr 16:20](#), and they are here said to work with him. Hence, he proves what he had before said, that they should be rewarded; God will not suffer those who work with him to be without their reward: as also that they were *one*, for they are all *laborers together with God*. Poole

- **1 Corinthians 3:9**
For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

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Contextual Reading 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

The Workman and their Work

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

33

1 Corinthians 3:10

- Observe, 1. The character which St. Paul assumes to himself, namely, that of a master-builder, yea, of a **wise master-builder**. But was it not vain-glorious in the apostle thus to describe himself? Is not Christ the great and wise master-builder of the church?
- Yes, undoubtedly: but the apostles were instruments in his hand, which he honored with success: for which reason St. Paul thus speaks.
- Learn that in some cases it is not vain-glory, but a necessary duty, for the ministers of Christ to magnify their work and office received from Christ.



Burkitt

• 1 Corinthians 3:10

By the grace
God has given
me, I laid a
foundation as a
wise builder, and
someone else is
building on it.
But each one
should build with
care.

34

1 Corinthians 3:10

- Observe, 2. The special work performed by St. Paul, the wise master-builder: **he laid the foundation**; that is, he first acquainted them with the rudiments and fundamental principles of the Christian religion, which they had never heard of before.
- Learn that it is a special part of divine wisdom in a minister to lay at first a good foundation of scripture knowledge in the minds and understandings of his people. **Unless we having a knowing people, we are not like to have a gracious people.** All our sermons will be dashed to pieces upon the rock of our people's ignorance, if they be not well indoctrinated and instructed in the fundamentals of Christianity. →

1 Corinthians 3:10

- Observe, 3. How very careful our apostle is to ascribe all his strength, his assistance and success, as a master-builder, to the grace of God: **According to the grace of God given to me.**
- Learn that it is the property of every godly man, much more of every gracious minister, to attribute all that good which is either received or done by him, to the grace of God. What man ever received more grace from God, or did more service for God, than St. Paul? And so enlarged is he upon all occasions in magnifying the grace of God, that he is never satisfied in exalting of it: **Not I, but the grace of God that was with me...** →

1 Corinthians 3:10

- Observe, 4. The cautionary direction by St. Paul, to all succeeding ministers of Christ, to take heed that they lay no other foundation than what was laid by him; and that they build suitably upon that foundation : **Let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon.**
- Learn that the ministers of Christ are to take exceptional care that they preach no other doctrine than what Christ and his apostles preached, and laid as the foundation of Christianity: and that they do not build upon that foundation any doctrine which may endanger their own or their people's salvation: **I have laid the foundation, and let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.**

Burkitt

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1 Corinthians 3:11

- He is the impregnable rock on which every soul must build his heavenly superstructure, there being no other alternative except the drifting, sinking sand.
 - **Jesus Christ**; he is the only sure foundation of human hope; and his true church is composed of such, and such only, as trust in him. [Isa 28:16](#); [Mt 21:42](#); [Ac 4:11](#); [Eph 2:20](#); [2Ti 2:19](#); [1Pe 2:6](#). The only foundation of the true church is Jesus Christ; and none belong to it except those who believe on him. Others may have an outward connection as members, but they have no saving union with the Head. They are dead members, who will be cut off--dry branches, which bear no fruit, and will be taken away. [Joh 15:2](#).
-

- 1 Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

FBN

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1 Corinthians 3:12-13

- The vivid imagination of St. Paul puts before us here an important truth in a picturesque form. Two workmen are building side by side. One builds a palace, the other a shack. The materials which one uses are gold and silver, for decoration; and for solidity costly stones, by which is not meant diamonds and emeralds and the like, but valuable building material, such as marbles and granites and alabaster. The other employs timber, dry reeds, straw. →

jhTexts

- **1 Corinthians 3:12-13**
If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

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1 Corinthians 3:12-13

- No doubt in Corinth, as in all ancient cities, side by side with the temples shining in marble and Corinthian brass were the huts of the poor and of slaves built of such flimsy materials as these. Suddenly there plays around both buildings a great fire, the fire of the Lord coming to Judgment. The marbles gleam the whiter, and the gold and the silver flash the more resplendently, whilst the tongues of light leap about them; but the straw shack goes up in a flare! **The one man gets wages for work that lasts, the other man gets no pay for what perishes. He is dragged through the smoke, saved by a hair's breadth, but sees all his toil lying there in white ashes at his feet.**

jhTexts

40

1 Corinthians 3:14-15

- There is a day coming that will as nicely distinguish one man from another, and one man's work from another's, as the fire distinguishes gold from dross, or metal that will bear the fire from other materials that will be consumed in it. In that day, **1.** Some men's works will *abide the trial*--will be found standard. It will appear that they not only held the foundation, but that they built regularly and well upon it--that they laid on proper materials, and in due form and order. →

MHWBC

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- **1 Corinthians 3:14-15**

If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames

1 Corinthians 3:14-15

- The foundation and the superstructure were all of a piece. The foundation-truths, and those that had a manifest connection with them, were taught together. It may not be so easy to discern this connection now, nor know what works will abide the trial then; but that day will make a full discovery. And such a builder shall not, cannot fail of a reward. He will have praise and honor in that day, and eternal recompence after it. Note, faithfulness in the ministers of Christ will meet with a full and ample reward in a future life. Those who spread true and pure religion in all the branches of it, and whose work will abide in the great day, shall receive a reward. And, Lord, how great! how much exceeding their deserts!

MHWBC

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1 Corinthians 3:14-15

- 2. There are others *whose works shall be burnt* ([1Co 3:15](#)), whose corrupt opinions and doctrines, or vain inventions and usages in the worship of God, shall be discovered, disowned, and rejected, in that day--shall be first manifested to be corrupt, and then disapproved of God and rejected. Note, The great day will pluck off all disguises, and make things appear as they are: *He whose work shall be burnt will suffer loss*. If he have built upon the right foundation wood and hay and stubble, he will suffer loss. His weakness and corruption will be the lessening of his glory, though he may in the general have been an honest and an upright Christian. This part of his work will be lost, turning no way to his advantage, though he himself may be saved. →

MHWBC

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1 Corinthians 3:14-15

- Observe, Those who hold the foundation of Christianity, though they build hay, wood, and stubble, upon it, may be saved. **This may help to enlarge our charity. We should not condemn men for their weakness: for nothing will damn men but wickedness.** He shall be saved, *yet so as by fire*, saved out of the fire. He himself shall be snatched out of that flame which will consume his work.

MHWBC

44

How often do you consider whether your current activities will have eternal value?

Rarely - I focus mainly on immediate concerns and pleasures

0%

Occasionally, usually during church services or crises

0%

Regularly - it influences most of my major decisions

0%

Only when making big life decisions like career or marriage

0%

Something else -----

0%

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Contextual Reading 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

The Church and the Temple of God

¹⁶Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

1 Corinthians 3:16

- In this letter Paul used the temple metaphor two ways. Here, God's temple refers to the church, the community in which Paul, Apollos and others worked (v. 6). But in 6:12–20, where Paul was speaking about what Christians do with their bodies, temples (6:19) refers to individual Christians.

Quest STUDY BIBLE

- *You yourselves are God's temple.* This is to be understood of the community of Christians, or of the church, as being the place where God dwells on the earth. The idea is derived from the mode of speaking among the Jews, where they are said often in the Old Testament to be the temple and the habitation of God.

Barnes

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- **1 Corinthians 3:16**
Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

1 Corinthians 3:16

- *They are his temple, the place of his abode. His residence is with them; and he is in their midst. This figure the apostle Paul several times uses, [1Co 6:19](#); [2Co 6:16](#); [Eph 2:20-22](#).*
- **Ye are the temple of God**; elsewhere the apostle calls the bodies of individual believers the temples of the Holy Ghost, chap [1Co 6:19](#). ... But here, as in [Eph 2:20-22](#); [1Pe 2:5](#); he has reference to the church of Christ, which is "God's building." Each true member, quickened by God's Spirit, is a living stone, and all united form a living temple, in which He dwells in a much higher and fuller sense than He dwelt in his temple of old.

Clarke

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1 Peter 2:5

- Peter no doubt meant to exhort the faithful to consecrate themselves as a spiritual temple to God; for he aptly infers from the design of our calling what our duty is. We must further observe, that he constructs one house from the whole number of the faithful. For though every one of us is said to be the temple of God, yet all are united together in one, and must be joined together by mutual love, so that one temple may be made of us all. Then, as it is true that each one is a temple in which God dwells by his Spirit, so all ought to be so fitted together, →

Calvin

- **1 Peter 2:5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 49

1 Peter 2:5

- that they may form one universal temple. This is the case when every one, content with his own measure, keeps himself within the limits of his own duty; all have, however, something to do with regard to others.
- By calling us *living stones* and *spiritual* building, as he had before said that Christ is a living stone, he draws a comparison between us and the ancient temple; and this serves to amplify divine grace.
 - A *holy priesthood* It is a singular honor, that God should not only consecrate us as a temple to himself, in which he dwells and is worshipped, but that he should also make us priests. But Peter mentions this double honor, in order to stimulate us more effectually to serve and worship God. →

Calvin

1 Peter 2:5

Of the spiritual sacrifices, the first is the offering of ourselves, of which Paul speaks in [Ro 12:1](#); for we can offer nothing, until we offer to him ourselves as a sacrifice; which is done by denying ourselves. Then, afterwards follow prayers, thanksgiving, almsdeeds, and all the duties of religion.

- But the Apostle adds, *through Jesus Christ*. There is never found in our sacrifices such purity, that they are of themselves acceptable to God; our self-denial is never entire and complete, our prayers are never so sincere as they ought to be, we are never so zealous and so diligent in doing good, but that our works are imperfect, and mingled with many vices. Nevertheless, Christ procures favor for them. →

Calvin

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1 Peter 2:5

Then Peter here eliminates that want of faith which we may have respecting the acceptableness of our works, when he says, that they are accepted, not for the merit of their own excellency, but through Christ. And it ought to kindle the more the intensity of our efforts, when we hear that God deals so indulgently with us, that in Christ he sets a value on our works, which in themselves deserve nothing.

Calvin

- A *spiritual temple*, not made of perishable materials, like that at Jerusalem; not composed of *matter*, as that was, but made up of redeemed souls--a temple more appropriate to be the residence of one who is a pure spirit.

Barnes

52

1 Corinthians 3:17

- The people of God, who are here called *the temple of God*, are defiled, either by absorbing false doctrine, or being tempted to any looseness of life and conversation. Now, (says the apostle), if any one goes about to do this, which all preachers do who teach any false doctrine, or any principles that lead to a liberty for the flesh, or lead to an ill and scandalous life, God shall destroy those men.
- *For the temple of God is holy*; for as the temple of God of old was a place built and set apart for holy uses, and therefore not without great peril to be abused and profaned; →

Poolle

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- 1 Corinthians 3:17
If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

1 Corinthians 3:17

so those that are the people of God, are by God called and set apart in a more immediate, eminent manner for the honor and glory of God, and therefore cannot be debauched or defiled by any as instruments in that action, without exceeding great peril and hazard to them that endeavor and attempt any such thing.

Poolle

- **If any man**— It is not unreasonable to think, that, by *any man*, St. Paul designs *one* particular man;—namely, the false Apostle, who, it is probable, by the strength of his party, supporting and retaining the fornicator mentioned, (Chapter 5) in the church, had *defiled* it. We may look upon most of the disorders in this church as owing to the false Apostle; ...

Coke

54

Contextual Reading 1 Corinthians 3:18-23

Warning against Deception and Glorifying in Men

¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; ²⁰and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” ²¹So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

55

1 Corinthians 3:18

- If any man among you seems to be wise - If any pretend or affect to be wise. This seems to refer to some individual in the Church of Corinth, who had been very troublesome to its peace and unity: ...someone who wished to have the pre-eminence and thought himself wiser than seven men that could render a reason. Every Christian Church has less or more of these.
- Let him become a fool - Let him divest himself of his worldly wisdom, and be contented to be called a fool, and esteemed one, that he may become wise unto salvation, →

Clarke

- **1 Corinthians 3:18**
Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise.

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1 Corinthians 3:18

by renouncing his own wisdom and seeking that which comes from God. But probably the apostle refers to him who, pretending to great wisdom and information, taught doctrines contrary to the Gospel; endeavoring to show reasons for them, and to support his own opinions with arguments which he thought unanswerable. This man brought his worldly wisdom to bear against the doctrines of Christ; and probably through such teaching many of the scandalous things which the apostle reprehends among the Corinthians originated.

Clarke

1 Corinthians 3:19

- He taketh the wise in their own craftiness - This is a quotation from [Job 5:13](#), and powerfully shows what the wisdom of this world is: it is a sort of craft, a subtle trade, which they carry on to wrong others and benefit themselves; and they have generally too much cunning to be caught by men; but God often overthrows them with their own devising.
- He does it by their own cunning or craftiness. He allows them to involve themselves in difficulties, or to entangle each other. He makes use of even their own craft and cunning to defeat their counsels. →

Clarke

Barnes

- 1 Corinthians 3:19
For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness";

1 Corinthians 3:19

- He allows the plans of one wise man to come in conflict with those of another, and thus to destroy one another. Honesty in religion, as in everything else, is the best policy; and a man who pursues a course of conscientious integrity may expect the protection of God; but he who attempts to carry his purposes by craft and intrigue--who depends on skill and cunning, instead of truth and honesty--will often find that he is the prey of his own cunning and duplicity.

Barnes

59

1 Corinthians 3:20

- A quotation from [Ps 94:11](#). St. Paul substitutes "the wise" for the "men" of the original, because the psalmist is referring to perverse despisers of God.

Pulpit

- 1 Corinthians 3:20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

60

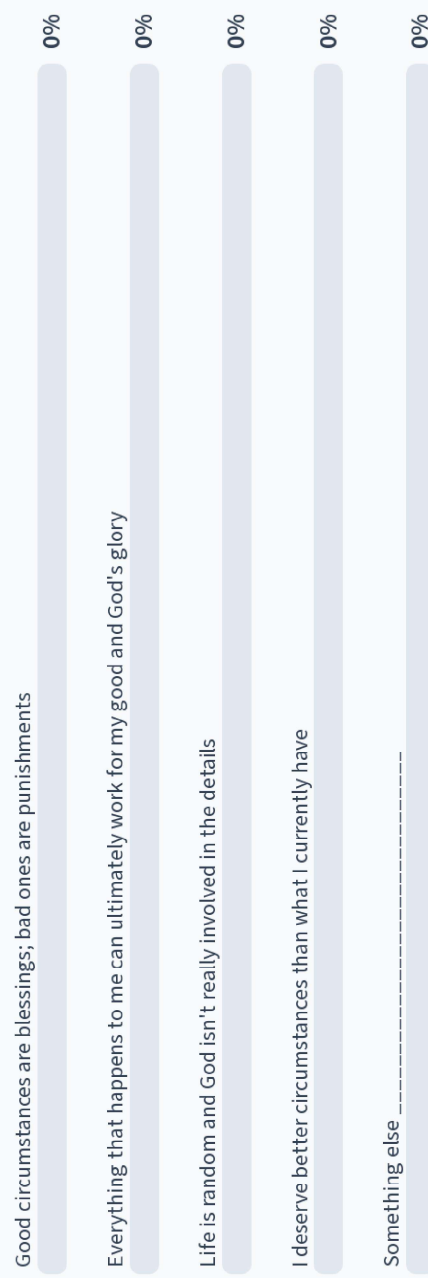
1 Corinthians 3:21

- **Wherefore, let no man glory in men.** In preachers like Paul, and Apollos, and Cephas. Above all, let them not form parties around human leaders. PNTC
- **All things are yours.** It is always a tendency of Christians to underrate the grandeur of their privileges by exaggerating their supposed monopoly of *some* of them, while *many* equally rich advantages are at their disposal. Instead of becoming partisans of special teachers, and champions of separate doctrines, they might enjoy all that was good in the doctrine of all teachers, whether they were prophets, or pastors, or evangelists. [[Eph 4:11-12](#)] The true God gives us *all things* richly to enjoy. [[1Ti 6:17](#)] Pulpit

- **1 Corinthians 3:21** So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours,

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How do you view your circumstances (both good and difficult) as a Christian?



1 Corinthians 3:22-23

- Next he mentions the things of the world are ours. **Or the world**, that is, all the good things in the world are ours, houses, lands, honors, friends, relations so far as God sees them good for us.
- But are there not many that are Christ's who want houses and friends, and other comforts; how then can they be said to have them?
- **Answer**→ 1. They have all things eminently and transcendently in God and Christ, by whom they have a title to all things, [Re 21:7](#).

Burkitt

- 1 Corinthians 3:22-23
whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

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1 Corinthians 3:22-23

2. They have all things virtually, in their contentment and satisfaction of mind which they do enjoy.

3. They have all things eventually: they have the good of all things, when they have not the actual possession of all things; their very wants, in the event, work for good.

Or life; this is ours two ways; the comfort of life is ours, and the end of life is ours, with the true use of it; for the sincere Christian only lives to purpose, by answering the great end of life, which is the promoting God's glory, and securing his own salvation. →

Burkitt

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1 Corinthians 3:22-23

Or death; that which is in itself so terrible is for the believer's advantage, their friend, their privilege, their passage to heaven, their deliverer from sin, the perfecter of their grace; when we come at heaven, and not till then, we shall fully understand what this means,

Death is ours.

Or things present: that is, all the events of providence which befall us, whether prosperity or adversity, health or sickness, riches or poverty, they are all sanctified to us, and are instrumental for the sanctifying of us. They are covenant blessings, and dispensed in love to us. →

1 Corinthians 3:22-23

Or things to come; that is, all future things which may befall us in this world, and in the world to come, shall be to our abundant advantage; whether they be merciful or good things, or grievous and sad things: particularly death is to come, but to die is gain.

Christ's death was the death of death; he has disarmed death of its sting; the believer fears not its dart; it is not an hurting, but an healing serpent: there is no venom or malignity in it, but that which was before in the number of threatening's, is now brought within the compass of the gospel promises: all things are ours, life or death, things present and things to come.

1 Corinthians 3:22-23

And ye are Christ's: that is, not Paul's or Apollo's disciples or servants, but only Christ's, therefore glory only in him, and in him only.

And Christ is God's: that is, as you are Christ's, and for his glory; so Christ, as Mediator, is God's, and for his glory. He is God's servant, to do his will, to execute his pleasure. he was begotten of his Father before all time. He sought not his own, but his Father's glory, in the doctrine which he preached, in the miracles which he wrought; but lived in an entire resignation to his Father's pleasure.

Lord! how will it shame us thy servants, to follow thy servant Christ, and to be called by his name, if we seek not his glory and exalt not his will, and live not to his praise, who died for us and rose again!

Reference Scriptures

- **Acts 4:11 (KJV)** This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.
- **Acts 18:24 (KJV)** And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.
- **Acts 18:27-28 (KJV)** And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: For he mightily convinced the Jews, *and that* publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 1:5 (KJV)** That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and *in* all knowledge;

Reference Scriptures

- **1 Corinthians 6:19 (KJV)** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you*, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
- **2 Corinthians 6:16 (KJV)** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- **Ephesians 2:20-22 (KJV)** And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

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Reference Scriptures

- **Ephesians 4:11-12 (KJV)** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- **Ephesians 4:13 (KJV)** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
- **Galatians 5:19-21 (KJV)** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

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Reference Scriptures

- **Galatians 5:25 (KJV)** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- **Isaiah 28:16 (KJV)** Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.
- **James 3:16 (KJV)** For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.
- **Job 5:13 (KJV)** He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.
- **John 15:2 (KJV)** Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

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Reference Scriptures

- **Mark 16:20 (KJV)** And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.
- **Matthew 21:42 (KJV)** Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?
- **1 Peter 2:5 (KJV)** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
- **1 Peter 2:6 (KJV)** Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

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Reference Scriptures

- **Psalms 94:11 (KJV)** The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity.
- **Revelation 21:7 (KJV)** He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.
- **Romans 12:1 (KJV)** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*.
- **1 Timothy 6:17 (KJV)** Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
- **2 Timothy 2:19 (KJV)** Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.