

A Reflection of Jesus

Lesson 9

A Building for Eternity

1 Corinthians 3:9-15

God was the Architect who carefully designed and planned every detail of His Tabernacle and Temple. This same God has not overlooked the details He has planned for our lives in His kingdom.

Teacher: During this Feast of Tabernacles, your students have been learning about Moses, and the Tabernacle in the wilderness, of Solomon and the Temple, and Isaiah the prophet who saw the glory of God. This final lesson will focus on the truth that Jesus is Lord. Someday all creation will bow to Him (Philippians 2:20,11).

Just as David and Solomon appreciated all that God had done, so we must feel an appreciation for God's careful and detailed plan to give us salvation. Listen carefully to what God is saying through His Word.

Teacher: The New Testament verses which we read in 1 Corinthians 3 do not constitute a "story" used to teach children. But this truth is important: These few verses in 1 Corinthians will have GREATER MEANING now that your students have learned about the Tabernacle, the furnishings and the Temple.

1 Corinthians 3:9,10—"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take

heed how he builds on it."

Remember reading about King Solomon being a wise man and getting lots of help to build the Temple? Well God is using many to do His work. Each person who is striving to obey God and spread His gospel message is a workman for Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11—"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church. It does not matter what your position in the church is, whether you are a parent, child, teacher, preacher, evangelist, janitor, theologian, etc.

What is important is that our faith is built on the strong foundation of God the Father and Jesus Christ. Foundations are important to any building.

Everywhere the Tabernacle was moved and set up, the ground had to be solid. When the Temple was built by Solomon, a good foundation was laid to build the building upon. This is important because a building is only as strong and secure as the FOUNDATION it is built upon. Our lives need to be built on the lasting foundation which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:12,13—"Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will

declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is"

Paul is describing how a foundation may be built with six different types of materials: *gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and stubble*. The first three would not be destroyed with fire; however, the last three would. Did you know that fire actually purifies gold, silver, and precious stones? The lesson here is that we work for a reward. The DURABILITY of that work will be made evident in the Day of Judgment.

1 Corinthians 3:14,15—"If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."

Spiritual growth built on Christ will receive a reward. The important component in any building or good work for the church is the sincerity of the worker.

We must always remember that while works do not save us, our works will always be rewarded. Service done in sincerity and thankfulness to God and others reflects the example of Jesus. It shows us as belonging to the household of God.

A good servant is FAITHFUL to his or her master. Our "works" then will show who our REAL master is.

1 Corinthians 3:16—"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

As you have studied and learned this Feast of Tabernacles, the Tabernacle and the

Temple were not to be defiled. God was very specific in the details. He revealed who would make the offering, and how and when He would make it.

There was a standard to be followed and if the standard was not followed, someone would lose his life. God looks at the attitude of deliberate disobedience in a very serious light. But when we try to serve God in sincerity He is patient in His teaching. Following God's instructions shows trust, faith, and honor for Him.

The standard for today has not changed. Praise be to God that our High Priest is Jesus Christ. We do not need a human priest to intercede for us. We may now kneel in prayer at any time of day or night and ask for forgiveness of sin. This is because Jesus Christ tabernacles in our heart and mind.

When God receives your prayers, which is like the incense burning in the Tabernacle, He sees Jesus Christ, our High Priest and Mediator, who intercedes for us. He sees we are Christ's, and therefore we are His.

What a plan! □

Scripture for Today

"I will put my laws in their minds, and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people"
(Jeremiah 31:33).

Choose Your Questions

For class discussion ask your students any of the following

1. Are we today workmen for Christ? Yes.

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