

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.

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.

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 critical 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 any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stone, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man'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 any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by 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 that we belong 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—"Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth 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. God doesn't need burnt offerings or special gifts. God wants us to be loving and fair and to walk humbly with 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 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).

Questions

1. Are we today workmen for Christ? _____
2. Who is the true foundation of the church? _____
3. Paul described six different types of materials used to build the foundation. Name them:
 1. _____ 2. _____
 3. _____ 4. _____
 5. _____ 6. _____
4. List the ones that can be destroyed by fire.
 1. _____ 2. _____
 3. _____
5. Which can not be destroyed by fire?
 1. _____ 2. _____
 3. _____
6. *True or False:* Fire purifies gold, silver, and precious stones.
7. *True or False:* All works will be rewarded. _____
8. Should we work for a reward? _____
9. Why is it important to follow God's instructions?

10. Do our works reflect who we belong to? _____
11. Who is *our* High Priest? _____
12. Who has made THE blood atonement for our sins? _____
13. Who "tabernacles" within the Christian today?

Christ Dwells Among Us

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Look up the following scriptures and write them down.

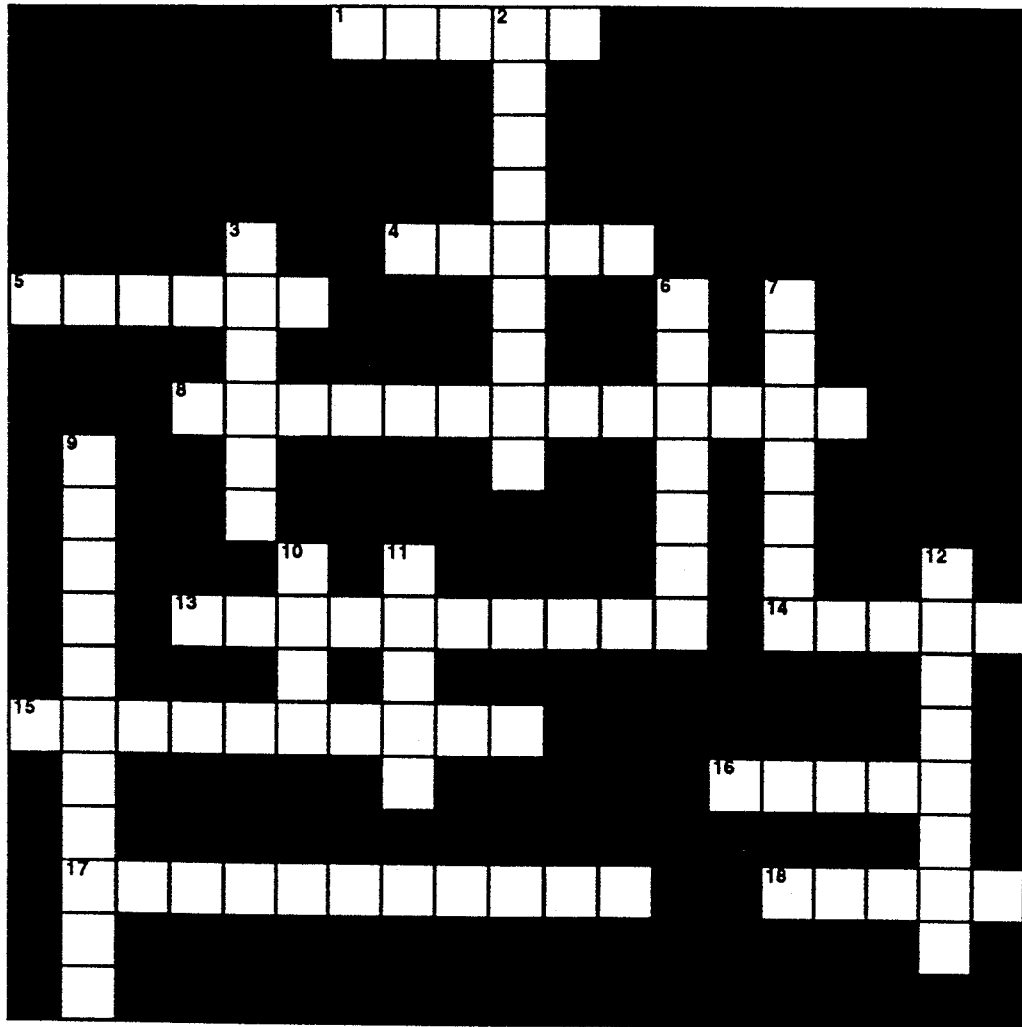
1. 2 Corinthians 5:1

2. Galatians 2:20

3. Colossians 1:27

In God's Kingdom

Isaiah 11:1-9



Across

1. You are celebrating the _____ of Tabernacles.
4. A cessation of strife.
5. Temporary shelters.
8. Morally upright.
13. A period of 1000 years; a time of peace.
14. The planet on which we live.
15. The _____ (the tent of meeting).
16. Royal rule and authority.
17. To harvest; to bring in.
18. The true or actual facts of a matter.

Down

2. To save from destruction.
3. Jesus of Nazareth; the Anointed One.
6. A country with a king as head of state.
7. The quality of being just or fair.
8. God's gift to us is _____
with Him in His kingdom (two words)
10. A design or arrangement.
11. Showing great kindness toward the distressed.
12. Time without end.

Across: 1. Feast 4. Peace 5. Booths 8. Righteousness 13. Millennium 14. Earth 15. Tabernacle 16. Reign 17. Ingathering 18. Truth
Down: 2. Salvation 3. Christ 6. Kingdom 7. Justice 9. Eternity 10. Plan 11. Mercy 12. Eternity