

## **I Corinthians 3:10-15** **The Builders Reward**

### **Introduction:**

The apostle Paul writes about good works when writing to the Ephesians: “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, for good works which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:10) We of course cannot be saved by good works or stay saved by good works. Faith and not works is the means of our salvation, but works are the marks of the Christian.

Every Christian is a builder, and we all need materials to build with. God wants us to build only with the best materials, because the best materials are worthy of Him. The best materials are the most effective and will last forever. God commanded Moses to build a tabernacle so that He would dwell in it; they were to be the best materials: gold, silver and bronze. Along with precious metals were to be the finest blue, purple and scarlet materials. Onyx stones and setting stones were to be included according to God’s pattern. (Exo. 25:1-9)

### **I. The Only Foundation – v. 10-14**

#### **A. Paul an expert builder – v.10**

1. A wise master-builder – Gk. Sophos – Gal. 1:12;
2. A wise architect – “builder” Gk. Architekton

#### **B. Foundation v. 10,11**

1. The only foundation already laid – Eph. 2:20; Matt. 7:24-28
2. Exhortation – “be careful” individual responsibility.

#### **C. Using the Right Building Materials:**

1. Paul’s work ethic – **Turn To: Acts 18:1-6**
2. Valuable an worthless materials

### **II. The Test For Our Building – v. 13-15**

#### **A. The day of testing – Turn To: I Thess. 5:1-11 (Heb. 10:25)**

1. Fire will test our labors – (Mal.4:1)
2. Fire not a time for punishment – Luke 19:11-22; Rev. 22:12

#### **B. Reward not Punishment – v.15**

1. Great, some, little and no reward
2. Saved but suffering loss

#### **C. The factious doctrine of Purgatory**

1. Every believer rests upon the foundation of Christ
2. Purgatory is a doctrine of temporal punishment
3. Matthew Poole’s comment and Matthew Henry’s comment...

### **Conclusion:**

1. *Let us be wise builders with long lasting materials in the Kingdom of God.*
2. *Let our faithful service meet the burning tests of God’s fire to secure eternal reward for the glory of God.*

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