

Spt. 29, 1929. Anderson Ind.
 new "Home Coming Day." Sugar
 Vermillion 10/19/91. U.P.B. 8/29/48
 Scripture Lesson 1 Cor 3: 5-16

Sub: City of Corinth situated on Isthmus connecting northern & southern Greece. First Gentile city in which Paul spent much time.

The city destroyed by Romans ^{with fire} in 146 B.C. In ruins for 100 years. Julius Caesar placed a colony of freedmen here to rebuild and restore the city. It soon regained much of its former splendor & size, it became also sinful and vicious. Drunkenness abounded. As Paul walked thru the city the devastation of the fire was yet visible. The stately and imperishable marble remained, but the wood, hay & stubble had been consumed. Hence his figure in this Scripture.

I. Paul a Builder. - Yea a mere laborer - God did the Building.

- A 1. Planted Church in Corinth.
- 2. Others came afterward - watered. - but God gave the increase. His figure - that the great architect - he a mere mason setting a few of the stones.
- B. The Church of Divine Origin & maintained by God. The ministers, the lay workers, are but God's instruments yet each has his own responsibility - his own part of the work to do.

II. Christ The Foundation.

- 1. With such a foundation, what a church we should have! What material

such a foundation commands!

What would Paul say if he saw the Church of today. Is it gold, silver, precious stone, or is some of it, wood, hay, stubble?

Much unworthy material has been built into the structure. So many people built into it who have brought no beauty or stability.

Some of the builders have been anxious to show quantity with little or no regard for quality. Size and not worth, has been the cry. Size is dangerous, if built of unworthy material.

2. Material to be tested.

1. By fire - it had tested Corinth.

1. Firey trials + tests of this world
2. of next world - the new life of the next world will burn away all inferiority & leave only genuine & useful. - Explanations, extenuating circumstances will not stand. Thorough - useless - selfish will all perish.

3. Workmanship to be tested.

1. Work to finish - to have ones work perish, to realize that all that we have done has not advanced Christ's King-
dom - would be humiliating.

1. Even good material must be well prepared. There is in Christ power to make men holy and all who are built into the temple should wish to have and have the Spirit of Christ.

III. We to Have a Responsibility.

1. For ^{living stones} appearance we present in God's temple.

2. It is duty of every one to set himself true to Christ. So many have unsettled, insecure, relations to Christ, their prayers are hesitating and insincere, their love for Christ hollow, and their devotion to his cause ^{fitful and fleeting}.

3. The weather fills on a building. How about its influence on you?

The atmosphere of life, sameness of worldly care, storms of loss & disappointment, social contacts, set out the heavenly temper from our characters and show ragged edges.

It is not enough to have a place in the building, to occupy it well should be our chief concern.

Conclusion. We are builders - laborers together with God. - Builders of church and Kingdom. Building on foundations others have laid & how important that we build well.

We are also living stones in that building, being wrought upon by Christ & each other.