

## 1 CORINTHIANS 3 – SAVED AS THROUGH FIRE

3:1-9 – one planted, another watered, God gives the growth

- John MacArthur, “Jealousy is the attitude and strife is the action that results from it. One is the inner emotional condition, the other is the outward expression of selfishness.”
- V4 – to act like mere men means to act like someone who does not have the Spirit of God inside of them. Galatians 5:16-26; Hebrews 5:11-14.
- Apollos, Paul, and Peter, “were merely “servants through whom [not in whom they] believed.”
- V6-7 – servants are instruments used by God. 2 Cor. 4:6-7; Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-13; 1 Peter 2:4-5.
- V8 – “each will receive his own reward”
- Labor = toil, trouble. Cognates of the word labor = birth pains, struggle, fight, strive. Think hard labor. Fits with the analogy being used in v6, 7, 9 – laborers and a field. Matt. 25:21.

3:10-17

- V10-12 - Christ is the only foundation. Paul is referring, first and foremost, to one’s teachings.
  - V11 - No other gospel – Galatians 1:6-9; Acts 4:12
  - Jesus + nothing. Psalm 118:21-23; Ephesians 2:19-21
- Saved as through fire
- V13 – “The Day” – the day of the Lord, the day of judgment.
  - “quality” – refers to what sort OR kind each man’s work is. This is in reference to our character and pure doctrine.
  - “Fire is often mentioned as a symbol, denoting God’s presence and power, his judgment or his purifying work.” Deuteronomy 4:24; Hebrews 10:30-31; 12:28-29; 1 Cor. 4:4-5; 2 Cor. 5:10; Malachi 4:1; Matt. 7:13-27; 25:26-34, 41-45
  - V14-15 – “If a man’s works remains...if any man’s work is burned up – he himself will be saved.” “the nature of this fire is evaluative, not punitive.”
  - Not many should be teachers - James 3:1; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Tim 1:5-7

- Warnings against false teacher’s & teachings - Matt 5:19; Rev. 22:18-19. This isn’t limited to just teachers, preachers, and pastors. This includes anyone who teaches another person anything regarding God and the Bible. Matt 12:36.
- We are God’s temple. “The OT lists gold, silver, and precious stones as building materials of the temple, which Paul mentions in 1 Cor 3:16-17 (e.g., 1 Chr 22:14-16; 29:2; 2 Chr 3:6).”
- V17, “If any man destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him” – Said another way – if any man teaches things contrary to the truth of Christ and lays a foundation based on a false gospel and false teachings about God, then that person will be held accountable by God. James 3:1; Matt. 12:35-37

3:18-23

- V18 – lean not on your own understanding
- V19 – Job 5:13
- V20 – Psalm 94:11
- V21 - Let no one boast in men. Jeremiah 9:24
- V21b – “all things are yours.” Stoic and Cynic philosophers often praised having nothing while emphasizing that the whole world belonged to them, so they could take whatever they needed. Paul is stating that when to those who belong to God through Christ, all the promises of God are poured out abundantly. 2 Cor. 1:20; 1 Peter 1:3-7
- V23 - You are Christ’s & Christ is God’s. “Though all things belong to the Christian, they are not centered in him, for all things actually and finally belong to God.” John 17:9-10, 20-23; Revelation 4:8-11