

Turn to 1 Cor. 3: at verse 10. I want you, before we expound this Scrip., to hold in your mind several questions which I want to ask at the end of our exposition.

1. What kind of works are gonna be eternally rewarded? What kind of works will we be rewarded for in Heaven? What kind of works must we do now in order to insure they will not be burned up but they will be eternally rewarded?
2. What kind of works are gonna be burned up?
3. Suppose ones works are burned up and the Scrip. says there will be those who will be saved as a person pulled through fire; all the works burned up; but they will be saved. Will that person be happy in Heaven? Is there such a thing as a person going to Heaven and being unhappy?
4. The passage before us is used by the Roman Church as a proof test for purgatory. Is this a proof text for purgatory? What is purgatory? It is teaching that in the world to come, there will <sup>be</sup> purgatorial fires for the cleansing of the soul, to prepare that soul for Heaven. One who dies, not bad enough to go to hell, not good enough to go to Heaven; goes to purgatory, is subjected to the purgatorial fires which cleanses the soul sufficiently, so that it can enter into the presence of God. Is this a good hoax? This is used by Roman interpreters, for the doctrine of purgatory. Is this a Scrip. for purgatory?
5. What is the fire that shall test our works at the Judgment seat of Christ?
6. What will be the nature of their awards? What does the Scrip. share.

Now the section before us views the Xtn life as a building. Paul is looking upon the Xtn life as the building of a building and we will note that there are three things in his presentation.

FIRST: He deals with the Foundation. I want you to be thinking of what the foundation of a Xtn life is. The foundation of the building. He begins with the Foundation. Then he moves

SECOND: TO THE FRAMING. Of The Structure. What we would call the super-structure.

And then

THIRDLY: He Deals With The Firing of it. Gonna be fired. Gonna be subjected to fire, he says. All right, let's look at it. It's a tremendous passage. It's inexhaustible in its teaching, really.

V. 10 (read) 'according to the grace of God' - according to that special gift and endowment which the Lord had given to him. See, God gives us special endowment; special gifts of power and wisdom to do that which He calls us to do. Take courage, if He's called you to a task, He gives us the grace to do it. Paul is talking about that here. ~~HE GOES ON TO SAY~~ He says 'based on the grace of God, which is given to me, as a wise masterbuilder' and the word 'masterbuilder' is the word 'architectos'. You immediately see the word architect. The word 'wise' is often translated 'expert'.

Is Paul arrogant? No. He's simply talking about what God has called him to do. We should rejoice and be proud of what God has invested us to do. I never saw anybody do anything in the Lord's work, who was not proud of it. The S. S. teacher succeeds who's proud that God's called them. The preachers that succeeds believes that God's hand is on him. 'Based upon this special endowment of grace, which God has given to me, as an expert carpenter or contractor.' He says 'I have laid the foundation'. Indeed, he had laid the foundation of the church at Corinth.

Look over at the 4th Chap. and V. 15 (read) isn't that beautiful? Paul had laid the foundation. He had preached the Gospel. He had won them to the Lord and he'd laid the foundation in bringing them to salvation in JC. He says 'I have laid the foundation and another buildeth (or IS building) thereon (right now). Or is going on right now. I laid the foundation. Others have followed me who are building on it. Now here he gives a command: he says 'but let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon'.

That's a very serious word. He says 'be tremendously careful how you're building your life'.

What you're putting in to the building of the life because as we're gonna see, it's gonna be put to the test. Some will stand the test and others will go up in smoke. What is the foundation in the Xtn life? Well, of course, he goes on to tell us in

V. 11 (read) JC is the foundation but in our own experience as a Xtn., what would be the foundation of the Xtn life? What is it? Well, the New Birth, or salvation. That is where we begin. The New Birth or Salvation. Now if you really press the metal further, there's beautiful Truth in it. Foundation - to lay a foundation required excavation. And in a Spiritual sense, there must be confession of sin. There must be cleansing; there must be excavation of the life. So we begin with the foundation and he says in V. 11 (re-read).

This reminds us of the word of Jes. to Peter, in Matt. 16, in which He said 'upon this rock, I will build my church' and some have said the rock is the confession of Peter. I don't think so. I think the foundation is Christ Himself and other foundations can no man lay than that which has already been laid which is JC., he says. Now, he says in

V. 12(read) 'now if any man builds, here is the framing'. Framing. In a physical sense, this, of course, would be the building above the foundation, or what we call the super-structure. But what would this be in a Spiritual sense? Building upon the foundation of the New Birth or Salvation. What would that be? Well, witnessing, but..... well, it's good works, but what we call it - what? Well, it's all that but what I'm thinking about is it's just our life. It's the Xtn life, you see. Here we start with Salvation and then the super-structure would simply be the entire Xtn life.

That we build upon the foundation of JC. He says 'now if any man build upon this foundation' and you see, there's no building of the Xtn life without the foundation of Christ and salvation. Keep this in mind. This is not a passage on salvation by works at all. See, Scrip. must be understood and must be interpreted or you can prove the greatest false doctrine from Scrip. 'If any man build upon this foundation' and I would put the participle 'use' in there, to make

it clear, 'using gold, silver, etc. (to end of verse). Now in this category, you have two categories of building materials:

1st: Gold, silver, precious stones. Now these were building materials of that day. And buildings were built of marble and ornamented with gold and silver and this is what he has in mind here. And then other buildings were built with

2nd: Wood, hay stubble. Like in the 2nd chapter of Mark when they pulled that roof off, that was of wood, hay and stubble. Not of gold, silver and precious stones. But here you have tremendous contrast. You have the ~~gold~~ gold and the silver and you have the diamond. Here's something that's imperishable and here's something that when it's tested by fire, is not removed but is more precious and here is something that is very costly, to obtain. Now this is important in understanding what Paul is trying to teach.

But then on the other hand, you've got wood, hay and stubble. Something that is very temporary; something that doesn't cost much to get at all; something of no value and something which cannot stand the test of fire at all. Just burns up! And it's gone! So he says we can build a life of gold and silver and precious stones or we can build a life that will last forever in Eternity. OR we can build a life that is of no value and is worthless. In 11 Cor. 5: 10 which is a parallel passage. If you'll turn over to it, Paul says that we must all appear before the Judgement seat of Christ that every man may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad... OH, NO! Bad, that is NOT the Greek!

'Whether it is good or worthless' the Greek word is 'worthless'. And that's the contrast you have here, in that which is precious and eternal or that which is worthless and will go up as smoke in Eternity and be no more. So, getting back now to our Scrip., he says in V. 12 (re-read). Then he says in

V. 13 (read) 'manifest' is 'brought out into the open'. Be revealed! 'For the day' (not just any day). It's not a twenty-four day he's talking about. 'For the day' - he's speaking of a

very special day appointed by God and this is the Day of the Lord or the day of the judgment seat of Christ, which is going to follow immediately after the Rapture. 'For the Day of the Lord shall declare it (that is, shall reveal the nature of the works, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every mans work (or shall test every mans work, of what sort it is). I translate the word 'sort' as quality. And yet, it is a teaching of Scrip. that you don't ~~even~~ ignore the quantity.

Not only are we going to be judged for what we DID do, but what we COULD have done. Scrip. teaches that. Jes. says in Luke 12: 48 (read) and someone who has been greatly gifted and can serve the Lord brilliantly and ~~who~~ just simply goofs off, it's gonna be bad. We're gonna be responsible for what we could have done, not just what we did do. But what we COULD have done. Because the Bible teaches that responsibility. But here the emphasis is on the quality, you see, because it's going back to the precious stones or the worthless building material.

Last part of V. 13 says 'the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is'. Every man's works - does that mean the whole human race? No, it does not. You have to interpret Scrip. in its contextual setting. No one will be there except those who have the foundation. This is not the whole body of people. This is only Gods people who've laid the foundation in Jes. And they are the people who'se works are gonna be tested. This is not the judgment of the wicked dead, which will occur later, The Great White Throne Judgment and there won't be any testing of works at all! There won't be any rewards at all. There will be, simply, a consigning of everyone to the Lake of Fire. We read of this judgment in REv. 20: 11 & 15.

But you can attend some churches where these judgments are confused. I think it's sad, when Scrip. is mixed up that way. An outstanding National figure came to the city and I always wanted to hear him preach and I went down to the auditorium and he mixed up the ~~judgments~~ judgments. He believed in a general judgment. He didn't even know the difference between the judgment seat of Christ and the Great White Throne Judgment and if I called his name tonight which I won't, but if I called his name tonight, everybody here would know him. He's written books, he's appeared on television nation wide and he did not even know the difference in the

Great White Throne Judgment and the Day of the Lord. That's a serious error. Because when it comes to this Scrip., I wonder what in the world he would do with it. But look what he says in

V. 14 (read) 'abide' or remain. 'He shall receive a reward'. Now does this mean that those who receive a reward are going to walk around Heaven, strutting and being prideful and arrogant? What about it? Suppose you go to Heaven and you get the Crown of Life because you've suffered - you've suffered really persecution and you were faithful (Rev. 2: 10). Or that you have the soul winners award - where is that spoken of in the Bible: the soul winners award? Where? It's called the what? The Crown of REjoicing - amen. The Crown of REjoicing! I don't think anyone will have as much joy as those who've won souls.

As a matter of fact, no one here has as much joy as those who win souls. It's called the Crown of REjoicing but where's it found? No, there's one in 11 Timothy though, Kelly. There's a reward in 11 Timothy. 1 Thess. 2: 19 (read) is the Crown of Rejoicing. Well, the person who has the Crown of Rejoicing or say the Crown of Life, are they gonna walk around Heaven, strutting and saying 'look here, see what I did'? How do you know they're not? Does the Bible shed any light on it? Yes! Where does it say that, Jessie? Answer: 'well, it's over there in the Bible'. That's a good answer. And that's a safe answer, you know. I've heard that a lot of times. Look at Rev. 4: 10 (read) it's beautiful, we must read it. Also V. 11.

If we have a reward in Glory, how will we feel about it? Just how will we feel about it, if we have a reward in Glory, will we feel worthy of it? Tell me, how will we feel? What? All of you are talking but I can't understand - speaking in unknown tongues - somebody interpret!!! We'll want to give God the Glory. 'WE'll be humble. Well, won't we recognize that even the rewards came through the Grace of God, that the only reason we were able to be a soul winner, was the grace of God? If we have the Crown of Life, it was the grace of God. If we have the Crown of Righteousness, we have the ~~Incorruptible~~ <sup>OTHER</sup> Crown. What's the ~~Incorruptible~~ <sup>OTHER</sup> Crown - I didn't mention one?

Crown of Glory! Which is for the faithful pastor. There are five Crowns. Now this is not all the Bible says about rewards. One of the questions I gave you 'what's the nature of the reward?' Well, five of them are described. But do you realize that in the parable of the talents, which is one of the primary sections on rewards, you know the rewards that Jes. gave the faithful man? He says 'you have been faithful over a few things, 'I will make you ruler' ~~MY~~ MY - I will make you Ruler - there's rulership in the reward. 'I will make you RULER over MANY things, enter thou into the joy of the Lord. Enter thou into the JOY of the Lord!'

And you remember that I said our joys and our experiences of Heaven will not be the same. Every cup will be full, but some cups will be larger. Some cups will be larger and those in Rulership are gonna be in a different level of reward and joy, though every cup will be full. Let's go on. Notice he says in

V. 15 (read) 'as by fire' or escaping through the fire. Some time ago, I read of a man whose house caught on fire and every thing in the house and the house itself burned up. But the police rushed in there and in the nick of time, they dragged the man through the window and through the fire and saved him. But he saw his entire house to up in smoke. He lost everything except his own life. When I read that, I immediately thought of 1 Cor. 3: 15. Have you - how many of you have ever lost everything you had in a fire, raise your hand? Anybody?

That's an awful experience, isn't it, Eloise? Anyone else? I shall never forget, when I was a boy; it was one of the most graphic experiences of my life. Adjoining my fathers farm, and tobacco is King in N. Carolina, no matter what the Surgeon General said says today - it's King and it'll HAVE to be King. IF not, we'll have to close the great Universities there and destroy the economy the the state. But I remember these neighbors of ours had built the most tremendous tobacco barn. It was just - there'd never been anything built like that. And one day, we looked and we saw that tremendous building on fire.

And, of course, we rushed - and I remember it was the Anderson family - and I remember the lady - Pearl was her name - Pearl Anderson and Dewey, her husband - and they just stood there

and just wept and they said 'everything we have has gone up in flames. We've lost it all. We've lost the whole years labor' and they were just weeping and we were all weeping with them. There's something far sadder than that - think about standing before Christ and seeing our life go up in smoke. Seeing our whole life lost before us! YOU know as I read this today, Oh, it brought me to my knees and make me search my motives and my heart before God. Lord, I don't want my life to burn up in Eternity.

So easy - saved as by fire. Does it mean that that persons' gonna miserable throughout Eternity? No, it doesn't mean that. No ones gonna be unhappy in Heaven. Because to be in the presence of the Lord is gonna bring joy but there is a loss. There is a loss. Paul says 'there is a difference in reward and difference in our experience in Eternity'. I think of Rev. 21: 4 (read) <sup>most</sup> ~~the~~ scholars would probably laugh at me, but it says 'God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes'. I heard one of the greatest soul winners I've ever known say that that's gonna be people who are standing at the Judgment and who didn't win a soul and they're going to break up before the Lord and the Lord's gonna have to take over and just wipe their tears away before they can find any Heaven!

You know, I thought about that recently. He came to the Seminary and taught that and the Professors took a pretty dim view of it; they'd never won a soul in their lives, probably. But the more I think of what that man said, the more I think there may be some Truth in it! I'm wondering if we stand there with our lives burned up before our eyes, if we won't just be so sad and weeping until the Lord, Himself will just have to intervene. You say 'well, that type of person is not saved'. No, you can't say that. Because in the context, the person IS saved.

But the person - some of those - many will lose their lives and every ~~bit~~ of it will be burned up. What is the 'fire' of this Judgment? What do you think the fire is? Have you ever thought about it? Some of you who study the Bible pretty carefully - could you help us here? That's a good insight, Don: 'God (Heb. 12: 29) is a consuming fire'. Bro. Wayne Haver, you've a pretty good country scholar on the Bible - what do you think the fire is? Have you ever thought about it? You think what? Bro. Wayne, are you honest? Were you really gonna do that? You're too



big a Xtn to tell lies in Prayer Meeting! All right. O.K. I think you're on the right track. Turn to Rev. 1: 14(read) here we have a description of the risen Lord, who is the One who is gonna be at the Judgment Seat. It'll be Jes., not the Father or the H. S. Notice the latter part of the verse, it says 'His eyes were as a flame of fire'.

Look at REv. 2: 18 (read) it says 'His eyes were like unto a flame of fire'. You know what the fire of the Judgment is gonna be? Of the Judgment Seat? Where our works will be tested? I believe it will be the penetrating eyes of Jes. that'll look right through us and our whole lives. I believe it will reveal that which is a true work unto His glory and will expose every phoney work and we will see it as He flashes His penetrating eyes! Oh, my goodness, think of it! And this helps me understand why Paul felt like he did, because Paul was so concerned that this not happen to him.

Standing before Jes. and the penetrating eye looking right through us and seeing us! Seeing us for what we are. Does the doctrine of Grace and Eternal Security do away with this? Not at all. There's nothing we need, friends, as LBaptist, more than the come-back to the responsibility of our lives before God. And get off this thing of cheap Grace and talk about being saved by Grace. We need to realize our responsibility and that we're saved by Grace, we have to meet GOD with our lives! AND it is serious for every one of us - me and everybody here - what I'm talking about.

What Kind of Works are Gonna stand the test? What kind of works? Tell me. Because that's what we need to stress. What kind of works will stand the test? I don't think there's any question but that would certainly be true. Let's put the ones that will stand the test:

1. Those done to bring glory to Jes. O.K., what else?
2. Those done in the power of the H. S. O.K. What else?
3. I think so. I believe that. I believe there must be Works According to His Will.

I think there's many religious works and much church work that'll be burned up. Church work and the work of the church are two different things. Many people do church work. They come

to church; they fit into the organization but they don't do the work of the church - of bringing people to Christ and teaching them the Word of God. They do church work but they don't do the work of the church! So I believe there has to be works in the Will of God and what He has Prescribed. O.K.

Someone else gave something. Well, O.K., 'in the Name of Jes' or 'to the Glory of Jes' - we'll put all that under that. O.K. Some other reason or some other characteristic of the work. O.K. Love. Terry says 'proper motive' - I guess that would be very similar. O.K. What else? O.K. For the Glory of God, not self and I believe that, but that's true. O.K. How about in Faith? That which is not of faith, is sin. Where am I quoting from? O.K. That which is not of faith, is sin? No. Rom. 14: 21 (read) so there must be

4. Faith. There's another one that's plainly stated in the Bible. It's PLAINLY stated. Does anyone know what it is? And it's very important. Paul says in 1 Cor. 9: 16(read) so we must be

5. Willing. We must be willing.

O.K. now on this side over here, what kind of works are gonna be burned up? Would it not be the very opposite of this? Works done for the glory of ourselves rather than Jes. are gonna be burned up. Works done in the power of our flesh. Works done out of the will of God. They might be religious and noble, but they're out of the will of God. I think the gifts of Gods Spirit are very important in this - using our gift. Works done without any love or improper motive. Works done without faith and Works done unwillingly are gonna be burned up!

Is this a good passage on purgatory? Anybody? Why not? Somebody tell me now - have you thought it through? You say it's not? O.K. Why not? What if your Catholic brother says 'now listen, we got Scrip. over here for Purgatory. It's over in 1 Cor. 3: 11-15'. Could you deal with him? Is it a good passage on purgatory? Now, what is purgatory? Well, that's true but that's not the point I'm making. If we define purgatory, I think you'll easily see it.

What is purgatory? It's a place of the cleansing of the soul from sin. It's salvation. It's much what we would call salvation, in purgatory. O.K. is this purgatory? It doesn't say the MAN is tried; it says 'every mans WORK is tried'. It's very clear in saying that the mans' WORK - this is NOT a judgment of salvation. We'll never be judged for salvation, once we come to Christ. This is review of our lives, to see what rewards we will get or what loss. It's not - there's no purgatory fires here at all. This is not a Scrip. at all, for purgatory.

Course there IS no Scrip. but this certainly is not a Scrip. Now let's ask ourselves this question: What kind of materials are we building our life with? Are you building your life with materials that will stand the test and when Jes. looks at you, in the Judgement, that they will abide? Or will they be burned up? Have you ever done anything in your past life that's gonna be burned up? I doubt there's any of us here that could - if we're honest - but that would have to say 'I know I've done some things that would be burned up'.

What if we're engaging in a type of work that obviously can't stand the test - could we change it? Exactly! That's what the Word of God is for. Is to search our hearts that we might build a life that will be rewarded for all Eternity. Wonderful and yet awesome, isn't it?

Let's bow our heads.