

Ephesians 2:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone,

²¹ in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Introduction

In Paul's day as in ours, before a building can be erected, the drawings must be completed by an engineer (master builder). Then, the plans must be approved by the local authorities. For the type of building Paul was building and the type that we are building, the local authority is the Holy Spirit. We will not add to the building of the church without the Holy Spirit's building materials of His permission, power and authority. These building materials are like gold, silver and precious stones and will not be consumed under a test of fire, and if we continue to build upon what the church has already laid in this manner, our reward will be from the Lord. If we do not use the building materials the Holy Spirit provides, the part built will not pass the test of fire, but will be consumed as if it was never there. Our souls will be still saved, but not our work, and the reward certainly will not include these words from the Master, **Matthew 25:21 (NKJV)**

²¹Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

1 Corinthians 3:9-15 (NKJV)

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.

¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Vs. 9 – Not only are we co-workers with the likes of Barry Stagner, Dave Landis, David Hocking and Don Stewart, and the rest of the saints of CCT, we are co-workers with the creator of the universe; the One who made the stars and calls them by name; the One who measures the spans of the universe with the palm of His hand, and the One who knows the depth of our hearts and loves us anyway! Wow! That is the God we are in co-labor with! How amazing is that!

Vs. 10, 11 – Paul was called to plant churches as are some of us today. The foundation of each plant must be Jesus Christ or the building will not stand, and each floor of the building must be added with the permission, power and authority of the Holy Spirit.

Vs. 12, 13, 14 – God doesn't use a set of man's building standards to determine if the building is worthy of occupation. No, God uses fire to determine the buildings uprightness. The uprightness will be determined by Holy Fire. If nothing burns, then well. If some or all of the additions burns, the rewards will be given or held accordingly.

Vs. 15 – God knows whether or not your salvation motivated you to attempt to build in the first place. If you are saved, you will try to build, but your motives should be pure as well. Don't attempt to build in hopes of a reward. We should build in hopes that our building materials will cause the church to grow and to meet God's Holy inspection.