

The Inscrutable Question: Judgment Seat of Christ: Evaluation of Believers' Works: The Prototype Foundation; Schedule of Building Materials, 1 Cor 3:10-12

- 10- What determines the conveyance of these eternal rewards is the production of divine good and that which determines nonconveyance is the production of human good and evil.
- 11- The evaluation is conducted in heaven before the Supreme Court of Heaven during the time the Tribulation occurs on earth.
- 12- Every believer in the Church Age is present at this assembly. Some during the course of their lives on earth made the advance in the plan of God all the way to the sophisticated spiritual life and even to spiritual maturity while others never acquired a personal sense of destiny and even entered into carnality and reversionism.
- 13- We learn in 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 that no individual even qualifies to appear before the evaluation throne of Christ unless he is a Church Age believer.

1 Corinthians 3:10 - According to the grace of God that was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it.

- 1) There are two foundations in this passage. Paul, as well as the other apostles, lays the one mentioned here; Jesus Christ lays the one in the next verse.
- 2) Paul's foundation has to do with the communication of the mystery doctrines of the New Testament church in his epistles. This is confirmed by him in:

Ephesians 2:19 - Therefore, we are now no longer illegal aliens and foreigners, but fellow participants in the body politic of the saints and residents of God's household,

As manumitted slaves we are no longer aliens and foreigners with reference to the heavenly community. Instead we are freedmen made clients to God who is our Patron, members of His household with the privilege of being called "sons," and citizens of the heavenly *politeuma*, the heavenly body politic.

v. 20 - (God's household is) erected on the foundation of the apostles and the New Testament prophets [mystery doctrines of the Church in the New Testament], Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone.

- 3) So Paul indicates that he, as an apostle, laid down the foundation through his epistles. But a building's foundation begins with a cornerstone as is mentioned in Ephesians 2:20. The Greek word is ἀκρογωνιαίος, *akrogoniaios*: the chief cornerstone.
- 4) The "chief cornerstone" is an architectural term used figuratively. The cornerstone aligns and unites two walls and becomes the starting point of a building. In the Church Age the two walls united are Israel and the Church, for "there is neither Jew nor Gentile for we are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).
- 5) Thus the foundation of the spiritual building that is under construction, referred to collectively as The Church, is Jesus Christ as the Cornerstone plus the foundation which is His Word. Thus Jesus Christ becomes both Cornerstone: the starting point, and the foundation: the prototype for all the other "stones" in the building, both Jew and Gentile. This is the subject of:

1 Corinthians 3:11 - For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ

- 6) Jesus Christ is both Cornerstone: the starting point as well as Foundation: the prototype that all others are to follow. The prototype spiritual life of the Incarnation became the operational spiritual life of the Church Age.
- 7) In the Incarnation, the prototype system was accessed, utilized, and shown to be perfect by our Lord's impeccable execution.
- 8) He demonstrated that under the filling of the Holy Spirit, by growing in grace to spiritual maturity, and by applying the Word of God to the exigencies of life that one can maintain status quo spirituality in the face of cosmic opposition.
- 9) Thus, Jesus Christ laid a foundation that no one else has laid: He executed a perfect life even though "tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).
- 10) Now the possession of the assets associated with this unique spiritual life does not imply performance of the spiritual life. Jesus Christ possessed and performed and as a result was "crowned with glory and honor" (Hebrews 2:9).
- 11) Paul's context in 1 Corinthians 3 compares believers who are enrolled in the Divine Academy of Grace Didactics with those who are enrolled in the Satanic Academy of Cosmic Didactics:
 1. Verses 1-3a: Cadets in the Grace Academy compared with those in the Cosmic Academy.
 2. Verses 3b-8a: God only recognizes divine good and rejects human good.
 3. Verses 8b-9: Rewards are based on production of divine good.
 4. Verses 10-15: The evaluation of divine and human good at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- 12) In 1 Corinthians 3:12, Paul presents a metaphor that compares buildings constructed by believers on the foundation down by Jesus Christ when He fulfilled the prototype spiritual life in the Incarnation.
- 13) One believer constructs his building on the foundation through the production of divine good while the other believer constructs his through the production of human good and evil.

1 Corinthians 3:12 - Now if any believer builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood hay, stubble,
- 14) What is built on the foundation of the operational spiritual life is a building that is permanent and one that is temporary.
- 15) The building materials of the permanent structure are described figuratively as gold, silver and precious stones, representing the production of divine good.
- 16) The building materials of the temporary structure are described figuratively as wood, hay, and stubble, representing the production of human good and evil.
- 17) Since all sins were judged on the cross then sin is no longer the issue in the angelic conflict. Instead, the issue to be resolved is which system of thought, decision, and action will be used by members of the human race.
- 18) Although all sins are judged, everyone still sins. Sin management is impossible for the unbeliever, therefore all his thoughts, decisions, and actions are classified as human good and evil.



- 19) His good may be as minor as self-indulgence and self-absorption or as noble as serving his nation in its armed forces. But both are temporary and will be judged at the Last Judgment.