

Hello. /We will begin our 3rd lecture on Corinthians. /Today's message is from 1 Corinthians 3. /The title of the chapter is "The Temple." /Verses 1-4 are about believers who are of the flesh. /Verses 5-9 are about God's building and field. /Verses 10-17 are about the building of the temple. /Verses 18-23 are about abandoning the wisdom of man and returning to God.

/The first main point, "Believers who are of the flesh." /Verses 1-4.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.

/We can categorize all believers into two groups: spiritual believers and believers of the flesh. /Believers of the flesh drink milk, but they cannot eat solid food. /However, spiritual believers have reached maturity.

/Because milk does not provide all the nutrients, these believers must eat solid food. /Solid food gives them the strength to be active. /But when infants eat solid food, they cannot digest it properly.

/Hebrews 5:12-14 says, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

/The verse says, "For everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness." /That is why verse 2 says that the believers in Corinth were fed milk like children instead of solid food.

/The Apostle Paul fed them milk because the believers in Corinth were young. /What does it mean to feed with milk? /It means teaching the Bible through elementary ways. /Solid food is discovering and interpreting for the people the profound truth and spiritual meaning of the Bible.

/The entire Bible can be fed like milk or it can be fed like solid food. /An elementary interpretation teaches them that believing in Jesus leads to salvation and blessing. /This elementary interpretation says that if they believe in Jesus, they will be blessed, healed of physical illnesses, and live well in the world.

/Because the believers in Corinth are like infants, they are called believers of the flesh. /They previously could not eat solid food, and they still cannot eat it. /They must become mature in order for them to eat solid food. /The people of the church of Corinth could only drink milk like infants because their lives were centered on the flesh.

/Verse 3. /or you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

/Proof that the believers in Corinth were of the flesh was found in their jealousy and strife. /Jealousy and strife are about honor and glory. They are all for one's personal self. /Some people believe in Jesus for the honor and glory. /These people put themselves at the center, and they are people of the flesh.

/Verse 4 says, "For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?" /Some people of the Corinthian church said they belong to Paul.

/Other said they belong to Apollos. /This is evidence of them belonging to the flesh. /The world of the spirit does not follow people. /Those who live in the spirit long for the word of God, /rejoice in the Holy Spirit, /and live for Jesus.

/The world of God is not for one's self, but it is for God alone. /John the Baptist said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." /The Bible here specifically points out the divisions within the church of Corinth.

/The divisions in the church of Corinth began with their wrong perception of the leaders. /Furthermore, this factionalism stems from human selfishness and natural instinct. /This kind of factionalism can only be solved when they go before God.

/The second main point is "God's building and field." Verses 5-9. /Verses 5-6 show us that no matter how impressive Apollos and Paul are, they are only servants and messengers before God. /Therefore, it is wrong for the church members to follow people and create factions.

/Verse 6 says, "I planted." /It means Paul delivered the word of God, the truth of the gospel. /He was the first to plant the seeds of the gospel in Corinth.

/Then it says, "Apollos watered." /Apollos then went to Corinth and taught them the Bible, taking care of them as well. /However, God was the one who gave growth.

/Those who plant and water are messengers of God. /They simply do what the master tells them to do. /However, God is the only one who gives growth.

/Verse 7. /So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

/Before God, messengers and servants are nothing. /The master who gave the work and gave growth is the only great one. /We need to do all things for God, who is the owner of the church and the one who allows growth, lifting him up, and following him.

/Verse 8. /He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor.

/Those who preach the word of God to plant a church or those who nurture believers in the church are all servants. /Therefore, they will be rewarded by God for whatever they have done. /However, someone who confuses the word and does not preach it properly is not a true servant of God. /Paul did not make the word confusing.

/Verse 9. /For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

/Believers are God's field and his temple. /Thus it is important that the farming goes well on God's field. /It is also important for God's building to be built properly. /What good is it if Paul plants the seed but the seed does not grow?

/Also, they must not boast in Apollos just because Apollos gave water. If the temple is not built properly, what good is it? /Therefore if we have received the word of God, we must plant it in our spirits and make it grow.

/The temple is God's temple. /Thus we need to learn how to build the temple, and we need to use good materials when building the temple. /It is important that we serve God in the temple.

/Verse 10-17 are about the building of the temple.

/Verse 10. /According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.

/ "The grace of God given to me" refers to the grace of being given the position of apostle. /According to that grace, Paul laid a foundation like a skilled master builder. /This is referring to the building of the spiritual temple.

/If we look at verse 11, it says that the foundation is Jesus Christ. /Paul's proper understanding of Jesus Christ after receiving the revelation had become the foundation of the church, the foundation of the spiritual temple.

/It says that the temple is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. /Ephesians 2:20,21. /The foundation of the apostles and prophets is the Bible revealed by God. /The core of the Bible is Jesus Christ.

/Verse 11. /For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

/Besides Jesus Christ, there is no other foundation. /It is equivalent to saying there is no foundation other than the Old and New Testament Bible. /Believers! Do you believe in Peter's confession of faith? /He confessed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

/Peter accurately understood who Jesus Christ is. /Jesus complimented Peter. /He said he would build the church on the truth that Peter realized.

/Verse 12. /Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—

/Listed here are six materials for building the temple. /We can divide these six materials into two groups. /First are the materials that do not burn in fire. /They are gold, silver, and precious stones.

/The second group consists of the materials that do burn in fire. /They are wood, hay, and straw. /Every believer is building a spiritual temple. /There are those who build the spiritual temple with gold, silver, and precious stones, /and there are those building with wood, hay, and straw.

/Gold, silver, and precious stones do not burn in fire. /People who build with these materials understand the truth and believe it as it is. These people walk according to this word. /To build the house with gold, silver, and precious stones, one must enter the spiritual world.

/Thus we need to correctly understand the truth and live in it. /We also need to discover God's will and live for God in that truth. /Then we will receive God's guidance and follow him.

/In God, our souls will grow and will be made into the image of Christ. /This is what it means to build a spiritual temple. /All of this is done completely by God.

/Wood, hay, and straw all burn in the fire. /What does it mean to build the temple with materials that burn? /These people, because they build on the foundation of Jesus Christ, are believers of Jesus Christ.

/Verse 15 says that their work is burned up. These people do receive salvation, but they do not receive their reward in heaven. /They are people who are of the flesh, people who have jealousy and strife. /They believe in Jesus Christ and live a normal spiritual life.

/But they do most things for their honor and glory. /They give help, offer money, and do volunteer work for their personal benefit. /They do things for others to see. /God does not delight in this.

/Because they only act on the outside, their souls cannot grow. /Such a believer, though he may have done many deeds, does not receive rewards from God.

/Verse 13. /each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

/After a building is built, it must go through an inspection of completion. /The inspection is carried out according to the blueprint. /In this way, God tests the construction of the temple of each believer. /He tests it with fire.

/What is the fire? /We can explain it in two ways. /First, it is the word of God. /On the Day of Judgment, God will judge his believers with the word. /Jeremiah 5:14 says that the word of God is a fire.

/Because God judges with his word, whatever we build in the word lasts eternally. /Whatever is not built in the word will disappear. /Second, it refers to the fiery trial. /1 Peter 4:12.

/When fiery trial comes in this world, /those with spiritual skill shine because they keep their faith. /However, those who build with wood, hay, and straw fall down when the fiery trial comes because they have no spiritual skill.

/Verse 14. /If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.

/Because the work of those who build with gold, silver, and precious stones does not burn in the fire, the builders receive a reward. /The reason is they are people who have obeyed the truth and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to see their souls grow. /In other words, they are made in the image of Christ.

/Those who build in gold, silver, and precious stones will receive the greatest reward. /For example, wouldn't someone who built with gold be someone like the Apostle Paul? /The next is silver. /Silver isn't as great as gold, but it is a precious material that does not burn.

/The next are the precious stones. /Precious stones are more precious than gold or silver, but because they are listed third in the text, those who build with precious stones will receive the reward that comes after the reward for building with silver.

/Verse 15. /If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

/If someone's work is burned up, he is someone who built with wood, hay, and straw. /Of these three, wood is the best. /Next comes hay and then straw. /Whoever builds with these things has their work burned up.

/If the work is burned up during the time of fiery judgment, the person will suffer loss. /It says that this builder is like someone who comes out of the fire. /His work may burn, but because he has the right foundation, he is saved.

/Verse 11 says the foundation is Christ. These people lose all of their work. They receive salvation because they believe in Jesus. /The verse says, "But only as through fire."

/It means the person is like someone who runs out of a burning house naked. /It is like Lot who was saved in Sodom. /Lot followed Sodom's wealth, and he followed the world. /During the judgment of sulfur, Lot's wife became a pillar of salt.

/His two sons-in-law died in the fire. /His two daughters became lewd women. /Lot himself lost his virtue. /He was saved, but it was a shameful salvation.

/Verse 16. /Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

/First of all, the individual believer is a temple of God. /The Holy Spirit dwells in the believer's regenerated spirit. /Second, the group of believers who believe in Christ is a temple of God. /In other words, the church is God's temple. /Christ dwells within the church, /and the Holy Spirit is present to be in fellowship.

/The word "temple" is "naos" in Greek. /It is the place of God's presence. /It is the sanctuary in Exodus 25:8. /The temple is the place of God's presence on Israel.

/In the New Testament times, because the Holy Spirit dwells in each believer, /the believer is the temple. /Believers as a group, which is the church, is the temple. /The place where we worship is not the temple but a building in which we worship.

/Verse 17. /If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

/Ephesians 4:30 says, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God." /Believers are the temple, and the Holy Spirit dwells in the believer. /Therefore we must daily live under the Holy Spirit's guidance and assistance.

/Whoever grieves the Holy Spirit does not receive God's blessing. /The text says that God will destroy him who destroys God's temple. /We need to keep ourselves holy.

/Furthermore, even if we suffer a loss, we must not bring loss to the Lord's church. /Whoever injures God's church will certainly be cursed by God and perish.

/We also must not injure the spiritual faith of others. /We must make sure others do not injure our spiritual faith. /The believer must always watch after his spiritual faith, /and he must not damage the church's movement of salvation. /It says that whoever gives a cup of cold water because he is a disciple will be rewarded.

/We will look at the fourth main point. /Verses 18-23 are about abandoning the wisdom of man and returning to God.

/Verse 18. /Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

/The verse says, “If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool.” /Foolish is someone who lacks wisdom but thinks he has wisdom. /This person deceives himself.

/Whoever judges with the wisdom of man and does not follow the truth falls into his own schemes. /Instead, we must become the fool. /Who is someone with true wisdom?

/Whoever lays down his wisdom and believes in the truth of the cross is this person. /We saw this in chapter 1. /We learned that the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing. /But to us who are saved, it is the power of God.

/The believer who denies himself, believes in the word of God, and acts only for God is a person with wisdom. /Whoever unconditionally accepts only the word of God to believe and follow is the true person of wisdom.

/Verse 19. /For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,”

/Compared to the wisdom of God, the wisdom of this world is much folly. /The reason is we cannot know God with the wisdom of the world. /The wisdom of the world cannot understand the way of salvation. /In the world’s wisdom, the word of the cross is folly.

/Therefore nonbelievers reject the wisdom of God. /To God, the wisdom of the world is folly. /He catches the wise in their craftiness. /This is an application of Job 5:13. /Those who go forward with the wisdom of man will be caught in their own schemes.

/Verse 20. /and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

/This verse is an application of Psalm 94:11. /Whatever man does in his wisdom is meaningless. /Compared with the eternal plan of the Almighty God, it is meaningless.

/Verse 21. /So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours,

/All things exist for believers. /Paul said that every blessing of God in this universe belongs to the redeemed church. /The redeemed church is the center of all things. /Through the church, God is glorified.

/God wants all things to be unified through the church. /He wants all things to give him glory through the church. /The church accepts God’s will and applies it in this world.

/Therefore all things exist to fully make believers into people of Christ. /Through this they fully offer all things to God. /Moreover, every person in this world exists for the fulfillment of salvation of believers.

/For this reason, all believers must make use of other people to fulfill salvation. /Therefore, it is wrong to boast in man in the way the church of Corinth did.

/Paul, Apollos, and Cephas were given by God to carry out the work of salvation. /But when believers follow people, boast in the people they like, and create factions, they prove that they are people of the flesh.

/Verse 22 says, “whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours.” /Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world exist to train believers as people of Christ. /The believer must not trust in man.

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/The verse also says, “Life or death.” /I live to fulfill my salvation. /Even if I die or am martyred, God will use it for a better salvation. /Job’s ten children died so that God would refine him and make him like pure gold.

/The verse says, “Or the present or the future.” /Whatever we face now or will face in the future is used by God to refine us to fulfill our salvation.

/Verse 23. /and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

/Verse 23 teaches us the ultimate root of mankind. It declares God’s sovereignty over all things. /The salvation of believers was made possible by Christ’s intercession, /and Christ’s intercession happened under God’s sovereign providence.

/It says, “And you are Christ’s.” /God purchased us with the blood of Christ. /Therefore, we are Christ’s. /Therefore, we must certainly live for Christ. /We need to become like the image of Christ. /We must reveal Christ’s glory.

/The verse reads, “And Christ is God’s.” /Christ receives us believers and hands us over to God. /He gives the glory that he received from believers to God. /Finally, Christ himself gives glory to God. /Thus everything belongs to God. /6:19,20.
/Therefore we need to give glory to God. /Thank you.