

# Live for Jesus – the Foundation on Whom we are built

February 19, 2017 – I Corinthians 3:10-11; 16-17

---

***“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ..... Don’t You know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”***

If you drive down North Territorial Road to highway 23, or if you drive up highway 23, at exit 49 and beyond, you will see all the construction work that is going on for the road. You might see a crane, and some large bulldozers, and pile drivers, backhoes, large trucks etc.

When King Solomon began to build the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, He enrolled 30,000 men to bring the Cedar Wood needed from Lebanon. (I Kings 5:13ff) He also had 80,000 stone cutters in the hills and 70,000 carriers as well as 3,300 foremen who were to quarry large blocks of quality stone to provide a **foundation** of dressed stone for the Temple of the Lord.

Part of the building of the Temple of the Lord included 600 talents of gold which overlaid the inside of the Most Holy Place. 600 talents is estimated at 23 tons or 46,000 pounds of gold. (II Chron. 3:8) Solomon put in tremendous cost and effort to construct the temple of the Lord, to Worship the Lord. Yet that temple did not and could not save a single soul from sin and death and the fires of hell.

Only God can and has saved us from sin and death and the fires of hell by sending Christ Jesus.

And so the Apostle Paul tells us this morning:

***Vs. 10 – By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.***

***Vs. 11 – For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.***

The Apostle Paul emphasizes that foundation of God’s Church is none other than Jesus Christ.

Why is it so important that the Church, be built on Christ Jesus? Because only Jesus can save from sin, death the devil and the terrors of hell. Only Jesus is True God with the power over death. Only Jesus!

The Apostle Paul also answers the question: What is the Temple or Church of God? It is not a building made of brick or wood or mortar, but it consists of God’s people. All believers – Male or Female – Young or Old – White or Black or any shade in between. We know that God’s Church consists of people, and not a structure made of brick or wood or stone because God tells us in His Word.

***Vs. 16 – Don’t You know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?***

When King Solomon finished building the Temple, He had the priests carry the Ark of the Covenant to the temple and place it in the Most Holy Place.

After the Priests had left the Most Holy Place, it was then that we are told,

***“Then the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.”*** (II Chron. 5:13b-14)

As a believer in Christ Jesus, wherever you go, God is with you. That can be a frightening thought, or it can be comforting. To the “so called believer” who is living in sin, and committing sin, and thinking evil thoughts, it is frightening. It is frightening because God tells us through the Apostle Paul in this letter to the Congregation in Corinth.

**Vs. 17 – *If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.***

The fact that God dwells in you and goes wherever you go is also a great comfort. If as a believer you are lost in the woods or lost on the highway or a soldier deployed to a foreign nation, or the believer in a hospital room or Emergency room - it is a great comfort.

God is right there with you.

God led the Apostle Paul to preach this message to the congregation in Corinth, because they were having issues. The congregation in Corinth had divisions. Some followed Paul, some Peter, some Apollos and others boasted that they followed Christ Jesus!

There was a man in the congregation who was sleeping with his father’s wife / Step mother, and the congregation allowed for it. There were fellow members taking other members to court instead of settling their disputes in God pleasing manners amongst themselves. There were those who were abusing their Christian Freedoms, and abusing the Lord’s Supper. And so one might ask, - From where does the strength come to live lives for Christ Jesus? It comes from Christ alone!

Jesus lives within you.

God the Father lives within you.

God the Holy Spirit lives within you.

The Triune God lives within you.

From your Baptism, from the moment that God worked in your heart through the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Word and Sacrament.

**Vs. 16 – *Don’t You know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?***

As we live for Christ, we can be certain that Christ Lives. Christ has conquered sin and death and the devil for you.  
AMEN