

## BUILDING FOR GOD

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I Corinthians 3:9-15

The inerrant Word of God, profane history and the archaeologist's spade tell us of the practice of the ancients to build their cities on the rubble of the vanquished, forming through the centuries a small hill as one city after another fell and was rebuilt.

Today in many parts of the world bewildered peoples are trying to rebuild their bomb-shattered, war-torn cities. In America we are building; new homes, hundreds of thousands of them, new factories, schools, churches, airports, roads, etc.

But for whom is all this building? Many months ago, representatives of most of the nations of the world met in San Francisco for many days with great ceremony, publicity, and labor. Out of this came the U.N.O., which is supposed to be the foundation for lasting peace and security. But since God was not invited but deliberately left out and knowing the teaching of the Word of God, we doubt very much the quality or endurance of such a foundation. Up to this time it seems hardly a brick has been laid with agreement. But for whom is this building? For man and by man and it will never rise above the level of fallen, sinful, selfish, greedy man!

Over and above all this activity on earth, we see two great builders. One is Satan, who is working feverishly to build a system of world government, world order, world religion, world labor and world economy to prepare for a world dictator, the antichrist; a world religious pope, the false prophet; and himself the world God--an infernal trinity indeed! This shall all come to naught and be destroyed by Christ at His coming again.

Daniel 2:44,45

On the other hand, we see the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, yet the Son of the Living God, carefully, steadily and surely building. For He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."

Yes, God is building in the world today, Not a better world, not a Christian order, not a new way of life or a world fit for democracy or a democracy fit for the world. But He is building His church and preparing the world for the return to earth of His Son to rule and reign in righteousness and justice.

God has called us to be builders for Him. To build we need at least two things, labor and materials.

Considering labor we first need an architect. He must determine if materials and labor are available, the cost and if it will meet the need. (Luke 14:28-31) In I Corinthians 3:9 Paul tells "we are labourers together with God". He is the Divine Architect. Then there must be a foreman or Superintendent. The Holy Spirit is using The Bible as the Divine Blueprint. He alone fully understands the plan and we must take our instructions from Him and not rely on mans schemes and devices.

Finally God needs workmen. God had laid out His great plan and sent the Holy Spirit to superintend the work. At Pentecost He baptized all believers into the body, which is the church. Now He indwells each believer and, working through us, is calling out a people for His name. All cannot do the same work. Some are bricklayers, carpenters, masons, lathers, electricians, etc. So it is in God's work. (Eph. 4:11-12)

Thinking of the materials, the foundation must first be laid. Christ is the only true Foundation. (v.11). Paul says he laid that foundation. How important to realize this in this day of crumbling

foundations of man's structure. Having laid the foundation we are told "let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon." (v.10) Today we build our great structures of materials that are fireproof. They have been tried in the fire. Steel, brick and concrete all go through the fire before they are ready to use.

The great and terrible LaSalle Hotel fire recently proved it was not strictly "fire proof". (v.13)

What kind of workmen are we? Are we obeying the Holy Spirit and following God's plan. What kind of materials are we building with? We may build with the gold of faith--tried in the fire; the silver of purity; the precious stones of sincerity, the steel of the enduring Word of God and the concrete of the blessed hope.

We are living in a day when the works of men's hands requiring years to plan and complete can be destroyed utterly in split seconds under the shattering power of an atomic bomb. Man made earthquakes level and destroy the works of man's hands. But the work that God is doing in and through the church cannot be touched by man. "The gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."

What about our work, will it abide? If so we shall be rewarded someday. (v.14). An earthquake was causing the inhabitants of a small town to be greatly disturbed. They were surprised at the apparent calmness and joy of an old lady. "Mother, are you not afraid?" they asked. "No", she replied, "I rejoice to know that I have a God that can shake the world." Let each man take care how he builds.