

Building a Foundation

Once we are saved and have placed our faith in what Christ did for us on the cross, we are faced with the **second most important decision of our lives** — *how are we now going to live our life?*

In 1 Corinthians 3:10, Paul describes himself as a “*wise masterbuilder*” who helped lay the foundation of faith for others. However, he makes it clear that there is only **one foundation** strong enough to build upon:

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
- 1 Corinthians 3:11

After salvation, we begin to “build” on that foundation. Every thought, action, and choice adds something to our spiritual building.

“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;” - 1 Corinthians 3:12

Paul gives two types of materials here:

- **Gold, silver, precious stones** represent works done for God — things of eternal value that glorify Him.
- **Wood, hay, stubble** represent things done for self — empty efforts that won’t last.

We each decide what kind of life we’re building.

One day, every believer’s work will be tested by fire — not to determine if we’re saved, but to reveal what we did *after* being saved.

“Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.”
— 1 Corinthians 3:13

If what we’ve built was done to honor Christ, it will last and we’ll receive reward. But if our work was selfish or worldly, it will be burned up — and we’ll lose that reward, though our salvation remains secure.

“If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”
— 1 Corinthians 3:14–15

Even when we fail, God’s grace holds us. Our salvation can never be lost, because it’s not built on what we do, but on what Christ has already done.

