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Today's Scripture: **1 Corth 3:5-15**

God-Approved Churches Clearly Acknowledge God's Hand in Everything While Connecting Everything to the Cross of Christ

1. The Workers—A Biblical Perspective on Church Leaders (vs 5-9)

All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king answered and said, "**Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?**" While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." **Daniel 4:29-32**

2. The Foundation- A Biblical Perspective on What Matters Most (vs 10-11)

When I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. **1Corinthians 2:1-5**

3. The Building - A Biblical Perspective on How to Build What Lasts (vs 12-15)

Everything in church life should be clearly traceable to a dependence on Christ and his death on the cross for us.

It is possible to “build the church” with such shoddy materials that at the last day you have nothing to show for your labor. People may come, feel “helped”, join in corporate worship, serve on committees, teach Sunday school classes, bring their friends, enjoy “fellowship”, raise funds, participate in counselling sessions and self-help groups, but still not really know the Lord. If the church is being built with large portions of charm, personality, easy oratory, positive thinking, managerial skills, powerful and emotional experiences, and people smarts, but without the repeated, passionate, Spirit-anointed proclamation of “Jesus Christ and him crucified”, we may be winning more adherents than converts. Not for a moment am I suggesting that, say, managerial skills are unnecessary, or that basic people skills are merely optional. But the fundamental nonnegotiable, that without which the church is no longer the church, is the gospel, God’s “folly”, Jesus Christ and him crucified.

D.A.Carson in *The Cross and Christian Ministry* p.80

