

I Corinthians

(7) Reward or Loss

1 Cor 3:1-15 NIV

3 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

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. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

Focusing on the farmers...3:1-9

After declaring their worldliness (3:1-2), how does Paul prove it? 3:3-4; Eph.2:1-3; ICor.11:18

What's his point? Instead of being *spiritual* (mature) what were they like? 3:4b; **Eph.4:17-24**

What is Paul's evaluation of himself and Apollos? 3:5; 4:2; IICor.3:4-6

What were those specific tasks? 3:6,10 and the result? 3:7-8; Jn.15:4-5, 4:34-38

What is the conclusion of this? 3:8-9; Ps.62:12; Mt.5:11-12, 10:41-42; Rev.22:12

Focusing on the careful builders...3:10-15

By the pronouns used, how does Paul seem to shift the focus in 3:10-15? IPet.4:7-11

What's his point about *them*, 'God's building' (3:9)? 3:10-11 (note: applies to any church)

What are the (2) basic *types* of building material? 3:12-13; IITim.2:20-21; Jer.23:28-32

What's the result of the fire 'testing' for gold, silver, costly stones? 3:14; IPet.1:3-**7**

And for the wood, hay, straw? 3:15; see **Rev.3:18**

I Corinthians

(7) Reward or Loss

1 Cor 3:1-15 NIV

3 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

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. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

Focusing on the farmers...3:1-9

After declaring their worldliness (3:1-2), how does Paul prove it? 3:3-4; Eph.2:1-3; ICor.11:18

He cites their jealousy and quarreling, specifically those 'following' Paul or Apollos.

What's his point? Instead of being *spiritual* (mature) what were they like? 3:4b; **Eph.4:17-24**

Their behavior was just like 'mere men', that is, unredeemed men. They acted unsaved!

What is Paul's evaluation of himself and Apollos? 3:5; 4:2; IICor.3:4-6

We're both God's servants through whom you believed. Each has a specific different task.

What were those specific tasks? 3:6,10 and the result? 3:7-8; Jn.15:4-5, 4:34-38

Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow! Different functions, one purpose.

What is the conclusion of this? 3:8-9; Ps.62:12; Mt.5:11-12, 10:41-42; Rev.22:12

Planter, feeder will each be rewarded according to his labor. We're workers, you're His.

Focusing on the careful builders...3:10-15

By the pronouns used, how does Paul seem to shift the focus in 3:10-15? IPet.4:7-11

It has been about Paul and Apollos. Now it shifts to each one, no one, any man. That is, us!

What's his point about *them*, 'God's building' (3:9)? 3:10-11 (note: applies to any church)

The ONLY foundation is Jesus Christ. Be very careful how you build on this foundation!

What are the (2) basic *types* of building material? 3:12-13; IITim.2:20-21; Jer.23:28-32

1) is combustible (wood, hay, straw) 2) is fire proof! Fire destroys one, refines the other.

What's the result of the fire 'testing' for gold, silver, costly stones? 3:14; IPet.1:3-7

The value of the gold, silver, costly stones is enhanced/refined. He receives his reward!

And for the wood, hay, straw? 3:15; see **Rev.3:18**

The wood, hay, straw is consumed. Suffers loss, still saved, but with the smell of smoke.