

THE TRUTH ABOUT SERVING GOD
I COR. 3:8-15 (v8)

Introduction:

- A. It has been said that, "the truth hurts."
 - 1. It does only if we know it.
 - 2. It also comforts!

- B. What is the truth, the bottom line concerning serving God?
 - 1. What are we to do?
 - 2. What is the relationship of service and reward?

I. THE POSITION OF THE LABORERS. V8,9

- A. Paul's initial statement.
 - 1. v6. Set out trees, watered trees.
 - 2. v7. "Neither is anything."

- B. "Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one."
 - 1. planteth = phuteuo - to plant, esp. trees.
 - 2. watereth = potizo - to water, to irrigate.
 - 3. We select trees and plant them, (we do not give them life) we irrigate them so that they will produce fruit.
 - 4. Persons who plant and irrigate are not at cross purposes.

- C. "for we are laborers together with God."
 - 1. sunergos - a working together with, co-operating, co-workers, joint endeavor.
 - 2. We work together for the same God.

II. THE POSITION OF THE CHURCH. V9

- A. "ye are God's husbandry."
 - 1. A tilled field, a farm.
 - 2. You are the trees, the church is the orchard.

- B. "ye are God's building."
 - 1. The act of building a house, an edifice.
 - 2. Eph. 2:19-22.
 - 3. Matt. 16:18.

III. PAUL LAID THE FOUNDATION AT CORINTH.

- A. "According to the grace of God, which is given me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation."
 - 1. In His love God gave me a work to do.
 - 2. masterbuilder = architekton - a chief artificer, director of works, the designer, not the craftsman only, but the architect.
 - 3. themelios - placed or laid as a foundation.
- B. The foundation Paul laid.
 - 1. v11.
 - 2. No man can or should be the foundation. No family, no system, no activity.
 - 3. Men can be pillars, but not foundations.
 - a. Gal. 2:9 "And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars....." firm support.
 - 4. Let Jesus be the foundation, the leadership pillars, and everyone "living stones."

IV. THE WORK AFTER THE FOUNDATION IS LAID. V10

- A. "I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon."
 - 1. buildeth = epoikodomeo = to build upon.
 - 2. To dome up. Matt. 16:18.
 - 3. Probably Apollos. I Cor. 4:6.
- B. A warning to the laborer.
 - 1. "But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon."
 - 2. (same as above.)
 - 3. You had better consider your work!

V. THE KINDS OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE. U12

- A. "whatever is used by those who build upon this foundation."
 - 1. The foundation is laid, now build upon it.

- B. The areas of selection.
 - 1. "Gold, silver, precious stones," granite & marble.
 - 2. "Wood, hay, stubble,"
 - a. wood = ksulon - wood, timber.
 - b. hay = chortos - a feeding place, hay, fodder.
 - c. stubble = kalame - the stalk of grains after the ears are removed.
 - 3. The wood, hay, stubble.
 - a. Easy to find.
 - b. Readily available.
 - c. Cheap to buy.

- C. The quality is of more importance than the quantity.
 - 1. Gold, Silver, Precious stones = Temples.
 - 2. Wood = doors, framing.
 - 3. Hay = straw for brick -- Peasants home.
 - 4. Stubble = roof -- Peasants home.

VI. EVERY BUILDING WILL BE INSPECTED. U13

- A. "every man's work shall be made manifest."
 - 1. manifest = phaneros - apparent, visible, conspicuous
 - 2. The quality of each man's work will come to light.

- B. The building is the church, the church has all six kinds of material.
 - 1. Some day what a person is in the church will be manifest.
 - 2. The test is one of material.

- C. The building will be set on fire!
 - 1. "for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire."
 - a. "for the day will show it, for the day will brake in fire."
 - 2. "and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."
 - a. And the fire will test the quality of every man's work.
 - b. sort = what kind.

VII. THE BASIS OF PAY OR COMPENSATION. V14-15

- A. v14.
 - 1. If the work we have built on the foundation remains.
 - 2. reward = misthos - hire, wages, pay.

- B. v15. "loss = lose = a loser"
 - 1. "but if a man's work is burned down under the test, he loses all."
 - 2. "He shall be saved, but like a man escaping through a wall of flames."