

## WORKING WITH THE LORD

**1Co 3:9** *For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.*

It is a marvelous thing that we are invited to be God's fellow workers. We don't have to be, but we get to if we choose to be. I don't know about you but I really need God helping me! There is no better helper. The Apostle Paul decided to team up with God in his ministry to the church.

**1Co 3:10** **According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.**

Paul says that what he did as a minister was by the **grace of God**. Grace is God working with you! Grace is the unmerited favor and ability of God. Grace allows you to do what you could not normally do alone. By the grace of God Paul laid for the church the foundation of Christ as our righteousness. Through the revelation given to Paul we have the foundation of the New Covenant to build upon. There is no other foundation we can safely build on then Christ as our righteousness.

**1Co 3:12** **Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,**

This chapter is not really talking about individual believers. It is referring the church as a whole. Paul is addressing ministers in this chapter and telling them that they have no authority to lay any other foundation than Jesus Christ. They could only build on the foundation of Jesus. Paul warns them to use the proper materials in building up the church. Paul mentions that they could use gold, silver, and precious stones or wood, hay, and stubble. Gold, silver, and precious stones speak of heavenly materials that come from God. The wood, hay, and stubble represent what is earthly and carnal. Ministers can either go to God and become a fellow worker with Him and get the proper and approved building materials for the church or they can use their own man made materials and work alone! It is sad to say that many ministers are working alone in their efforts to build their churches. They are using man made formulas, programs, and using sermons they looked up or heard other's preach instead of going to God Himself for revelation and direction from Him personally. They are using

wood, hay, and stubble. It is possible to build a fine looking structure made of wood, but it will not stand in a fire! **One day fire will descend on what we have built upon the foundation of Christ and it will be evident that day where we got our building materials!**

We all are ministers for the Lord in some degree and we all are responsible for building the church. Even our individual lives are not isolated and separated from other Christians. We are members together of the body of Christ. What I am doing in the Lord is being added to all the other work of all other Christians to build the one universal church which God inhabits. We as a church are a temple for God to dwell in. My Christian life is bigger than just me. It is part of the whole. This means my life impacts you and yours impacts me! We need each other to be building correctly and with the approved building materials.

How do you start your day? Do you pray or do you just get on with living? If you choose not to join with the Lord during your day to work with Him and ask Him to work with you, then you are building with wood, hay, and stubble. If you make your house out of wood, hay, and stubble then the big bad wolf [satan] will blow it down!

You can practice the presence of Jesus everywhere you go. Acknowledge His presence with you and ask for His help and grace in everything you do and then trust He is! You will be amazed at how much easier your life becomes. It will become golden! Choose today to be a fellow worker with God and you will be glad on that great day that you worked with God!