

The Narrow Way

THE NARROW WAY PART 12 - THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST PT 2

We began unpacking the Judgement Seat of Christ, in part 11, by looking at what it is to have Jesus as our true foundation instead of ourselves. We are going to continue this in part 12, as we unpack verses 12 and 13, to see what insights we may gain regarding this true building work of the Spirit. Let me repeat that, the building work of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:12-13 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

When you read these verses out of context, it can make you believe that we are the builders of our own lives. It's important to note that we are NOT the builders of ourselves, the sole responsibility of this falls to Jesus Christ. The Spirit and the scriptures are explicitly clear on this fact.

Matthew 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What Paul is really asking is, what is your life built upon? Is it built on gold, silver and precious stones or is it built upon wood, hay and straw? In other words, is your life built upon spirit and truth or is it built upon flesh?

We must know, without a shadow of doubt, because the day is coming, which is the Judgement day, where what our lives are truly built upon will be revealed. On that day God's fire will test the quality of what our lives have been built upon. There will be



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nowhere to hide and no excuses.

Notice I said quality and not quantity. God will test the quality of what our lives are built upon. Many chase numbers and figures trying to prove themselves and their worth to others and themselves, but those in the Spirit know it is the quality of what one's life is built upon that really matters.

Why is this the case? Because true worshippers know it's all about becoming like Christ, rather than trying to prove yourself through self-accomplishment.

We will get to see in that moment our true state and reality. God wants us going into that day full of confidence, knowing that the fire will reveal our lives have been built on gold, silver and precious stones.

1 John 4:17-18 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

The follower who is being built on gold, silver and precious stone, will be like Christ was when He was upon the earth. This is why there is nothing to fear, because His love is so transformative, it has perfected you and I into His image and empowered us to live and walk in the manner in which He walked.

1 John 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

If we truly abide in Christ who is love, we walk in the manner of love, where there is nothing to fear, because fear involves punishment and there is no punishment in love. There is correction and discipline, and we need this, but there is no punishment.

The fire itself will test the quality of what our lives have been built upon and we can know right now and go into this day full of confidence in God, knowing that our lives are being



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built on the Christ, because we have the corresponding life of what He promises us.

This is why Jesus advised the church of Laodicea to buy from Him gold, which had been refined by fire, so that they may become rich in spirit. They did not know their true state or what their lives were actually being built upon, which was wood, hay and straw.

God Himself is the all-consuming fire that will determine the quality of what our lives were built upon. He sent us His Son, and in doing so provided everything pertaining to life and godliness, so let's press on towards the upward call in Jesus Christ and leave behind the elementary things.

Philippians 3:12-16 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

Paul was absolutely confident that his life was being built on gold, silver and precious stones and he knew the crown of righteousness awaited him, along with all those who were built in this way.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

QUESTIONS

1. How does knowing there is a day of judgement for the way you have lived your life, shape and define your life today?



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2. Why is it about the quality of the work our lives are built upon and not the quantity of what we do?
3. How confident are you of receiving your reward at the judgement seat?
4. Why is there to be no fear of this day of judgement?
5. Why is pressing on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus so important?

Watch the accompanying You Tube video here: <https://youtu.be/q2c3WguDNNo>