

# Engineering For Eternity

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## 1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-15

There are clear implications in this passage for every believer. There will be a day when our work on earth will be revealed (apokalyptō) by fire, and that fire will either show our work to be sound or it will destroy that work completely. This is a strictly pass/fail test.

Some questions to answer:

- What does this passage **implore** of us?
- What does this passage **warn** us of?
- How does this passage change the way every believer should **see and do ministry**?

### 1. We trust no other \_\_\_\_\_ .

“According to the grace of God given to me, **like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation**, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. **For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**” 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

I. **“master builder”** → Greek word “architektōn” → a master builder, an architect, the superintendent in the construction of buildings.

II. The foundation is both the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

The **Person** of Jesus Christ → He is **Lord**

The **Work** of Jesus Christ → He is **Savior**

III. **We must remember though that the demons believed in the person of Jesus and it scared them to death (James 2:18-20). It’s never enough to believe the facts; the finished work of Jesus Christ must be effectual in us through the new birth.**

“In the first and second centuries, Christians looked for proof of the Spirit’s power, not in an office, but in the lives of believers. They saw the Paraclete in terms of moral energy.”  
– Bruce L. Shelley, “Church History in Plain Language”

IV. The greatest miracle of God is \_\_\_\_\_ of a believer.

### 2. We do the work \_\_\_\_\_ .

“What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” 3:5-6

I. The work cannot be done alone. We work on one Foundation and build one Kingdom.

II. Division in the church is always the result of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ .

A. “For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.” 1 Corinthians 11:18-19

B. “For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?” 1 Corinthians 3:3-4

3. \_\_\_\_\_ we do the work matters.

“Let each one take care **how** he builds upon it.” 1 Corinthians 3:10

“Now if anyone builds on the foundation with **gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw**— 13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.” 1 Corinthians 3:12-13

I. “Wood, Hay, Straw”

Quality	Ministry	Revealed by Fire
abundant, cheap	human resources, ability	ash
degradable, flammable	human limitations, finiteness	

A. “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—**the desires of the flesh** and **the desires of the eyes** and **pride of life**—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” 1 John 2:15-17

II. “Gold, Silver, Precious Stones”

Quality	Ministry	Revealed by Fire
rare, costly	God’s provision, power	purified, enhanced
pure, incombustible	God’s infinite purpose, Kingdom	

III. If these are clearly two sets of materials in this illustration, what does this look like in real life?

“Wood, Hay, Straw” Ministry	“Gold, Silver, Precious Stones” Ministry
Entertainment	Worship
Personalities	Faithful Men & Women
Talent	Spiritually Mature Leaders
Trendiness, Cultural Relevance	Sound Doctrine

4. The \_\_\_\_\_ for work will end.

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I. We get **one opportunity** to do the work of the Kingdom in this life.

“When you kill time, remember that it has no resurrection.” A.W. Tozer

II. In the end, the fire is a test of \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.

- Am I working on the Foundation?
- Am I investing my life in work that matters in the Kingdom of God?
- How much time do I have left to do the work?

“Only one life, ’twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last.” C.T. Studd