

Theme: Christians are called to build their lives and ministries in such a manner that they will survive the coming judgment and bring eternal rewards.

I. Intro – *Built to Last*

- A. *Built to Last; Good to Great* – great companies
- B. Key issue – greatness over time
- C. Time brings changes – must survive
- D. The judgment is coming – how will our life fare?

II. Intro to This Text – Building the Church

- A. Paul is really talking about building the church
- B. Issue is will these teachers work survive judgment
- C. However, same is true of work of all believers
- D. This is a specific application of a general principle

III. A Life Built to Last?

- A. The lasting foundation – Jesus Christ (v11)
 - 1. Jesus the only true foundation for church, us
 - 2. No other foundation will survive coming fire
 - 3. MOST critical point – is Christ foundation?
- B. For Christians – how do we build on foundation?

- 1. Key question – how do we build (v10)
- 2. Key issue – what materials do we use (v12)
- 3. Do we use materials that will last thru fire?

C. The coming test of judgment fire

- 1. The judgment fire will test all work (v13)
- 2. Only what is built with good material survives

D. The result – purification or destruction

- 1. Some work will survive (& be purified) – v14
- 2. Some work will be destroyed – v15
- 3. All in Christ are saved – but work is lost – v15

IV. Doctrine of Differing Eternal Rewards

A. Judgment; including works of believers

- 1. All works judged - Rom 2:6; Eccl 12:14
- 2. Believers judged - 2Co 5:10; Rom 14:10-12; 1Co 4:5
- 3. Believers - judgment to bring reward, not condemnation

B. Rewards in heaven – God’s just reward

- 1. Mt 5:12 – reward in heaven
- 2. Mt 6:1ff – reward – not always in this life!

3. Mt 6:19-21 – store or not store in heaven
 4. Lk 19:11-26 – parable of minas
- C. Our life now as believers will be rewarded in eternity
1. Only way to make sense of judgment verses
 2. Only way to make sense of reward verses
 3. Only way to understand our text

2. The analogy of the capacity of a jar
3. The call – build a big jar to hold lots of joy!

A Life Built to Last

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

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Psalm 67

V. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do you have Christ as your foundation?
1. Only he can survive the coming judgment
 2. All other foundations will crumble and burn
 3. Turn to Christ!
- B. Christians – are our lives being built to last?
1. We do not fear judgment – reward, not condemnation
 2. Still, are we living for eternal rewards?
 3. Are we living for the dot, or the line? (graphic)
 4. Tozer quote
- C. Differing rewards – yet full of joy
1. We will see things from God's perspective

6 God "will give to each person according to what he has done."
Romans 2:6

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:14

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

10 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. 11 It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" 12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Romans 14:10-12

5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. 1 Corinthians 4:5

12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Mat 5:12

1 "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:1-4

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

¹¹ While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. ¹² He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. ¹³ So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.' ¹⁴ "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' ¹⁵ "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. ¹⁶ "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' ¹⁷ "'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' ¹⁸ "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' ¹⁹ "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.' ²⁰ "Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. ²¹ I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.' ²² "His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?' ²⁴ "Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.' ²⁵ "'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!' ²⁶ "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away.'

Luke 19:11-26

The church is constantly being tempted to accept this world as her home... but if she is wise she will consider that she stands in the valley between the mountain peaks of eternity past and eternity to come. The past is gone forever and the present is passing as swift as the shadow on the sundial... Even if the earth should continue a million years not one of us could stay to enjoy it. We do well to think of the long tomorrow. AW Tozer, quoted in Randy Alcorn, *In Light of Eternity*, 160.