

## 1 Cor 3 Be Careful How You Build

### There are no masters in the church, only servants

<sup>5</sup> *What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. (1 Cor 3.5)*

Servants were on the lowest rung of the social ladder.

### It's God who grows the church

*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup> The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labour.*

In this picture the church is a plant, Paul and Apollos are farmers who plant and water, but it is God who makes it grow.

### But we still need to be careful how we build

#### Into the church

With good foundations: <sup>11</sup> *For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

And quality materials: <sup>12</sup> *If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> their work will be shown for what it is, because the*

*Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.*

This is not about individuals. It's about churches and those who teach in them.

Becoming a leader or teacher in the church isn't something to be taken lightly. What we do, how we build, will be tested with fire.

#### Into the lives of those around us

Most of us exert some influence on those around us, as a parent, manager, friend, etc. What are we building into their lives?

*"The right word at the right time is like a custom-made piece of jewellery, And a wise friend's timely reprimand is like a gold ring slipped on your finger." Proverbs 25.11-12*

### Because the stakes are high

<sup>6</sup> *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.*

The church, the Body of Christ, is how God makes himself known in the world. If we destroy the church in a place, God is left without a witness in that place.