

I. Introduction: Paul told the Corinthians to prepare for their spiritual future, by doing things that would accumulate a reward for them when Jesus returns.

- A. Paul laid a foundation of preaching Christ, and he encouraged the Corinthians to continue to build on it, so that when Jesus returned they would be rewarded.

II. Amassing a Reward that Remains (1 Cor 3:10-15).

A. Strategic Plans (**v. 10**).

- 1. Paul's ministry in Corinth was strategic. He told the Corinthians that if they wanted to be rewarded by Jesus, they would have to be intentional and deliberate.

B. Strong Foundation (**v. 11**).

- 1. Paul laid the foundation of the church by preaching Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, it was the surest footing that he could have laid for the church.

C. Sturdy Materials (**vv. 12-13**).

- 1. Paul stated that there are many types of materials, but that the type of materials that one chooses are critical to the stability of the building and its endurance.

D. Staying Power (**vv. 14-15**).

- 1. Paul said that each person's works will be measured by its endurance. Their works will be tested by fire and they will receive a reward for whatever remains.

III. Conclusion: Paul said that one day Jesus would return to judge our works, and that we would be rewarded in heaven for whatever works we have done that are of eternal worth.

Questions About: Amassing a Reward that Remains

1. What are you doing to prepare for the future? Have you prepared for retirement? How have you prepared for Jesus' return? Will you have a reward from Jesus when you die?
2. In what way was Paul a "wise master builder"? (**v. 10**) What was Paul's strategy for reaching Corinth? (**1 Cor 1:23; 2:2**) What should be our strategy in reaching our city?
3. What was the foundation that Paul laid? (**v. 11**) How is Jesus the cornerstone? (**1 Peter 2:4-8**) What happens if we build on another foundation? (**Matt 7:24-29**) What are you building?
4. What did Paul say was another critical component of building something? (**vv. 12-13**) What are the first three materials mentioned? (**v. 12**) What are the next three types? (**v. 12**)
5. What do the gold, silver, and precious stones represent? (**v. 13**) What do the wood, hay, and stubble represent? (**v. 13**) What is the significance of each of these materials?
6. What is the test that God uses to reveal the quality of these materials? (**vv. 13-15**) What is God ultimately looking for? What will one receive if their work remains? (**v. 14**)
7. What will happen if one's works are burned up? (**v. 15**) What does it mean that he will suffer loss? (**v. 15**) What was the warning that Paul gave to the Corinthians? What does it mean?
8. How should we live our lives in light of this truth? How can we live in a way where we maximize our lives for God? How do immature believers waste their lives?

Prayer

1. Pray that God might help you to live your life for His kingdom and glory.
2. Pray that God would help you to evaluate what works are eternal and which are temporal.