

WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING FOR GOD?

(Paihia Family Church – 15/11/98 – EKB)

1. Jesus was called **“the Carpenter of Nazareth”**, *Mk 6:3*, and He earned His living as a builder, working with wood, hammer, nails, saw, level, square and rule.
2. At age 30, He ceased being a carpenter **and commenced His ministry of building the Church**, *Mat 16:18*. Instead of wood He used the Word, and instead of a spirit level He acted by the Spirit of God.
3. Reading: *1Cor 3:9-17*. In v9 it says we are **“God’s fellow workers”** or in other words, **“workers together with Him,”** *2Cor 6:1*.
4. *V10* says that Paul was a wise master builder of the Church of God, and He laid the **foundation of Jesus Christ**, *v11*
5. In *v10-12* we are instructed about our ministry of building God’s house, so that we will build with **the right materials on the right foundation**.
6. Actually **we are all building three houses for God**.
 - a. Our own **personal temple**, *1Cor 6:19*.
 - b. Our own **family household**, *Ac 16:31, 2Tim 1:16, 2Sam 6:20*.
 - c. Our own **local church**, *1Tim3:15, 1Pet 2:5*.
7. Because we are building God’s house, the church, we are to **“take heed,”** or **be careful how we build**, *1Cor 3:10*. The Foundation of Christ, and Christ alone, must be laid first, *v11*. Then on the Foundation of Christ we must **build with the right materials of GOLD, SILVER and PRECIOUS STONES**. There is coming a **DAY**, *v13*, in other places called **“the DAY OF THE LORD”**, when all that we have done will be tested by the fire of the Lord. **Only those things which we have done in obedience to the revealed will of the Lord, by the ability he gives, will remain**. The gold, silver and precious stones symbolise those works which have been done in God and which please Him.

On the other hand if we build with wood, hay, straw, there will be nothing left as a reward, because the fire of the Lord will have consumed it. These last three represent our own attempts to do God’s work, our good ideas, our own works. So **keep in prayer, keep in God’s Word and listen to what He says to you**. He will show you His plans for your life, family, and ministry in the church, which will produce “gold, silver and precious stones” as you obey Him by faith.

Gold, silver and precious stones are permanent, enduring, precious, valuable, often hard to find and require diligent searching before they are found. Wood, hay and straw are non permanent, decay easily, are cheap, non valuable and are easy to find.
8. Now we go to *Mat 21:12-16* where **Jesus gives us an example to follow** as builders of His House, *1Tim 3:15*.
 - a. *Mat 21:12*. When Jesus went into God’s house **He started by cleaning out the rubbish**. He moved strongly to remove selfishness, pride, cheating, lying, stealing and

sinful habits, so that godly attitudes of kindness, caring, humility, mercy, honesty, truthfulness could be established. He was showing us that **He requires His house to be a holy place of righteousness**, *Ex 25:8, Rom 6:12, 1Pet1:15,16, .*

- b. *Mat 21:13.* Once he had cleansed God's house, Jesus declared that **it was to be a house of prayer for all nations**, *Is 56:7.* Prayer is our No 1 ministry. Talk to God daily and listen to His voice, *1Thes 5:16-18.*
 - c. *Mat 21:14.* As we build our relationship with God in prayer, **His life flows into us and out to others, bringing healing**, sight, life and blessing, physically and spiritually. *Ac 10:38, Jn 7:37-39, Ac 26:18, Mk 16:15-18.*
 - d. *Mat 21:15.* As His life flows into us and through us out to others, to bring healing and salvation, **our hearts are filled with praise, thanksgiving and rejoicing.** God's house is built with praise and worship for that is the place of God's Throne and Kingdom rule. *Ps 22:3, Ps 100:4, Ps 24:7-10, Eph 5:18,19, Ps 34:1,2.*
 - e. *Mat 21:15.* We also **build God's house as we honour and glorify His Name**, to lift it up above all other, and confess His Name before people. *Lk 11:2, Mat 10:32,33, 1K 8:16-20, 2Chr 5:13,14, Ac 1:8.*
 - f. *Mat 21:16.* As we work with Jesus to build God's house, there will be opposition, and so **we have to make a stand against false criticisms and judgments.** "Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able **to stand** against the wiles of the devil," *Eph 6:11.* Building God's house requires making a firm stand from which you will not move, *Is 54:17, 1Cor 15:58.*
 - g. *Mat 21:16.* Jesus spoke out the Word of God from *Ps 8:2.* It was always on His lips. This is an important aspect of building God's house. **Keep God's Word in your heart, mind, and mouth**, because as you believe and confess the Word "you will make your way prosperous and have good success". *Josh 1:8, 2Tim 4:2, Heb 4:12, Ps 119:130, Ps 107:20, Pro 4:20-22.*
 - h. *Is 66:1,2.* Those who walk in humility and the fear of God, and highly respect His Word build God's house. Humility and love binds us together as living stones in His house. This is the place of rest. *Gal 5:13b, Jn 13:14, Eph 4:32-5:2, Eph 4:1-3.*
9. God holds the plans of His house. He is relying on you to build for Him, *Jer 29:11,NIV, Jn 14:26.* As you seek Him He will reveal them to You, *Jer 33:3.*
 10. The Lord will fulfil His purposes in our lives so that we become His dwelling place. *Eph 2:10, Phil 1:6, 1Thes 5:23,24, Ps 138:8, Job 23:14*
 11. Together with all the saints you will be built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit, His Holy Temple, *Eph 2:21,22.*