

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as **to carnal**, as to babes in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:1 (ESV) But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as **people of the flesh**, as infants in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:1 (NIV) Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as **worldly**--mere infants in Christ.

² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; **for until now** you were not able *to receive it*, and **even now** you are still not able;

“until now” & “even now” = not able to receive solid food = Reason “carnal” verse 3

³ for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* men?

Signs of being carnal = envy, strife and divisions among you

Their jealousy and strife gave evidence that they were still walking as carnal minded rather than spiritual minded. Becoming mature in Christ does not occur automatically because of length of time, but such is developed only by growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Pet. 3:18; Eph. 4:14-16. Attitudes and habits prove whether one is continuing to walk like the natural man, Gal. 5:19-21, or whether one is bearing the fruit of the Spirit, Gal. 5:22-23.

First Corinthians by Robert Harkrider pg. 22

⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I *am* of Apollos," are you not carnal?

⁵ Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

Plant & water = **Luke 10:2, Acts 8:4, Romans 1:8, Philippians 2:19-20 & 1st Thessalonians 3:2**
God gives increase = Romans 1:16-17, 2nd Corinthians 5:18-20, 1st Thessalonians 2:13 & 2nd Timothy 3:16-17

⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

¹¹ For **no other foundation** can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Jesus is chief cornerstone (**Ephesians 2:20**) Jesus is the head of the body (**Ephesians 1:22-23**) Jesus is the door (**John 10:7-9**) Jesus only way to salvation (**Acts 4:11-12 & John 14:6**)

¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.

..... Other Scriptures show that one's converts will be a source of glorying to the evangelist in heaven. Thus, we read: "For what is our hope, our joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy" (1 Thess. 2: 19-20); "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation . . . holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain" (Phil. 2:14-16); and, "Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown ... " (Phil. 4: 1). Consequently, if one's work in Christ in some sense can be spoken of as a "crown," we should not think it strange to see it designated a "reward" as well. **1st Corinthians (Truth Commentaries)** by Mike Willis pg.93

¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

..... If the witnessing of one's works abiding was one's joy and crown, i.e., his reward, the witnessing of one's works being destroyed would be a loss. **Suffer loss** (*zemioo*) suggests "disadvantage; damage; opposite of profit." Consequently, one whose works are destroyed has suffered a loss. Hence, we can read of some who fretted over their labors as follows: "I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" (Gal. 4:11); "for this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labor be in vain" (1 Thess. 3:5); also see Philippians 2:16. Labor which is "in vain" is labor which has no lingering fruit and, therefore, is of no profit to him who engaged in it. **1st Corinthians (Truth Commentaries)** by Mike Willis pg.94

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

¹⁷ If anyone **defiles** the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

Defiles / E.S.V. & N.A.S.V. & N.I.V. = **Destroys**

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

Romans 12:3 (NKJV) For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "*He catches the wise in their own craftiness*";

²⁰ and again, "*The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.*"

v.20- It is further established in Ps. 94:11 that man's thoughts are vain. It must be understood that the viewpoint of this context is speaking of the vanity of worldly wisdom in its attempts to supplant God's wisdom in spiritual matters. In the fields of science and industry men have developed many good things that are to be received as gifts of God to men. But in spiritual matters man is unable to guide himself, for his ways are so different from God's they lead only to eternal death, Prov.14:12; Jer.10:23; Isa.55:8-9 . **First Corinthians** by Robert Harkrider pg. 25

²¹ Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:

²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come--all are yours.

²³ And you *are* Christ's, and Christ *is* God's.

Questions 1st Corinthians Chapter Three

1. Why couldn't Paul speak to the Corinthians as spiritual people and what led Paul to this conclusion?
2. Who gives the increase and why did Paul bring this fact up at this time?
3. The statement, ***“For we are God’s fellow workers ...”*** is speaking of whom, and how would their work complement one another?
4. Where does it state, ***“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*** List other scriptures that describe the superiority of Jesus.
5. What scriptures does Mike Willis use to explain verses 14 and 15?
6. Who will God destroy? Why?
7. What is foolishness with God?
8. How does Paul go on to explain ***“Therefore let no one boast in men”***?
9. What will you remember from chapter 3?

