"LET EVERY MAN TAKE HEED HOW HE BUILDETH"

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul, on his second journey, had ESTABLISHED the church at Corinth -- Acts 18: 1 - 11

2. Other PREACHERS followed PAUL, and because of their FOLLY Paul WARNS that "EVERY MAN TAKE HEED HOW HE BUILDETH" -- I Cor. 3:10

3. These preachers did not build WISELY upon the FOUDATION laid by Paul, and as a result THE CHURCH AT CORINTH was DIVIDED, SINFUL, AND HAD A REPUTATION OF ILL REPUTE.

I. THE CONDITION THAT CALLED FOR THE STATEMENT OF THE TEXT:

1. They were following after PREACHERS -- I Cor. 1: 11 -13; 3:4; 4:6

2. As a RESULT, they were filled with STRIFE and ENVY -- I Cor. 3: 3 -4; James 3:16

3. PREACHERS, because of their position, can be INSTRUMENTS of much HARM or GREAT GOOD -- I Cor. 4:6

4. Preachers need to REALIZE this and GUARD AGAINST BUILDING A WORK AROUND THEMSELVES.

5. As a preacher CONVERTS SINNERS and TEACHES AND INSTRUCTS MEMBERS, he is building -- I Cor. 3: 11 -15

6. Much TIME AND THOUGHT should be given to HOW to do this work.

II. THE FUTURE SECURITY OF THE TEMPLE OF GOD, OR CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, DEPENDS UPON HOW PREACHERS BUILD

1. "If any man defile (or destroy) the temple of God, him shall God destroy" -- I Cor. 3:17

2. DOCTRINALLY WEAK PREACHING produces doctrinally weak members

   (1) The doctrine of Christ MUST be preached in its FULLNESS -- Acts 20: 20, 27

   (2) MORAL ISSUES MUST be dealt with -- I Cor. 5: 1 - 7; Eph. 5: 3 -4; I Cor. 6:18; I Cor. 10:8; I Tim. 2: 9 - 10

   (3) People are what they are because of what they have been taught -- Psa. 119: 11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee"

3. To INSURE THE SOUNDNESS of the church DOCTRINALLY, and the PURITY OF THE CHURCH MORALLY, "Let every man take heed how he buildeth" -- I Cor. 3:10

III. HOW NOT TO BUILD

1. NOT by preaching OURSELVES -- II Cor. 4:5

   (1) The security of the church RESTS on a WEAK AND UNSTABLE FOUNDATION IF members are CONVERTED by the pleasing personality of a preacher, instead of the gospel of Christ -- Mk. 16: 15 - 16; Rom. 1: 15 - 16

   (2) Paul preached Christ (THE GOSPEL) -- II Cor. 4:5; I Cor. 3:11; 1:18
2. NOT with EXCELLENCY OF SPEECH or THE WISDOM OF MEN or WITH ENTICING WORDS -- I Cor. 2: 1 - 5
   (1) Many members come to hear a BEAUTIFUL SPEECH, WELL DELIVERED, INSTEAD OF COMING TO HEAR THE GOSPEL -- II Tim. 4:2; I Pet. 4:11
   (2) Paul used great PLAINNESS OF SPEECH in his preaching -- II Cor. 3:12

3. NOT BY SECTARIAN GIMMICKRY
   (1) Not with the POSITIVE THINKING PHILOSOPHY
   (2) Not with the FELT NEED SOCIAL GOSPEL
   (3) Not with HUMAN MOTIVATION PHILOSOPHY
   (4) THE FRUITS that come from gimmickry:
      1. Gimmickry MINIMIZES the WORD OF GOD
      2. When gimmickry is used, men cease to desirer or expect the Word to be preached to answer their spiritual problems.
      3. Preaching of the word CEASES to be the CENTRAL WORK OF THE CHURCH.
      4. Men learn to rely more and more on the EMOTIONAL AND SENSATIONAL than on the SPIRITUAL -- John 6:63
      5. The SUCCESS of the GIMMICK becomes the STANDARD OF RIGHT -- the end justifies the means.
      6. The reaction to the gimmick is counted as RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL.
      7. The Church loses its MILITANT STAND for the right, and its OPPOSITION TO ALL ERROR.

4. NOT WITH A WHIRLPOOL OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
   (1) This is not the work of the church -- this is the work of the HOME -- I Cor. 11: 22, 34; Rom. 14:17
   (2) The church is to be built up through the PREACHING OF THE WORD -- Acts 20:32; I Cor. 1:21; II Tim. 4:2; Heb. 5: 12 - 14

5. NOT BY PREACHING OPINIONS
   (1) The church is divided today in many places because preachers have preached their opinions.
   (2) Preachers must preach the WORD OF GOD, NOT OPINIONS -- I Pet. 4:11

6. NOT BY TONING DOWN THE STANDARD OF THE GOSPEL
   (1) This fills the church with SINFUL PEOPLE
   (2) Preachers are sometimes tempted to do this (water down the gospel) because there are some people who do not love God enough to quit sinning.
   (3) To please God, one must make up his mind to stop living a life of sin -- Rom. 6: 12; I John 2:1; Eph. 4:26
IV. HOW TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH

1. BY PREACHING THE WORD -- II Tim. 4:2; I Cor. 1:21
   (1) The Word produces FAITH -- II Tim. 4:2; I Cor. 1:21
   (2) Gives UNDERSTANDING -- Psa. 119:104, 130
   (3) The Word SAVES -- James 1:21; Rom. 1:16
   (4) It CLEANSES -- John 15:3; I Pet. 1:22
   (5) It SANCTIFIES -- John 17:17
   (6) It is PROFITABLE -- II Tim. 3:16-17
   (7) The Word BUILDS UP -- Acts 20:32
   (8) Gives HOPE -- Rom. 15:4; Col. 1:5
   (9) Brings GROWTH -- I Pet. 2:2
   (10) It CONVERTS -- Psa. 19:7

2. The Word gives us MOTIVATION (incentive for action)
   (1) The love of God -- John 3:16; I John 4:19
   (2) The love of Christ -- Eph. 5:2; II Cor. 5:14
   (3) The Goodness of God -- Rom. 2:4
   (4) The rebuke of the word -- II Tim. 4:2
   (5) The exhorting of the Word -- Tit. 1:9
   (6) The Judgment of God -- Heb. 9:27
   (7) Hell revealed in the Word -- II Thess. 1:7-9
   (8) Heaven -- John 14:1-6; Matt. 25:46
   (9) The warning of the Word -- Col. 1:28

CONCLUSION:
1. "Let every man take heed how he buildeth" -- I Cor. 3:10
2. Too many today are not taking heed.

Donald Townsley
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