



Building Materials

A Devotion for Christian Life

(Sing or speak "The Church's One Foundation" #644 LSB; #289 LW v. 1, 3)

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 3:10-11 ESV)

The hurricane season has been brutal in the past several years causing massive and sometimes total destruction. Trying to repair and rebuild has often proved futile due to the lack of building materials and skilled labor. You need only to look around and to see the evidence.

In our text, Paul refers to himself as an expert builder, but only through the grace of God. He takes no credit for his ability. He laid the foundation according to God's plan, for it is God who is the Architect. The Foundation for God's church is Jesus Christ, crucified. He is the Rock, the Cornerstone.

The building does not stop with its foundation, as others are called to continue to build on this Foundation, the Foundation of Christ.

Paul gives a warning, however, to those who continue to build. They must take care as they build with Christ. Changes to the plans, defects, or shoddy workmanship are unacceptable. Their work will be judged.

Christ has called us to be the workers as He builds His Church. He laid the foundation of our own faith at the time of our Baptism. It was then that we were made children of God. His gift to us was the new birth of water and of the Spirit, forgiveness of sins and the strength of His grace for everlasting life through Jesus Christ. WOW!

Through His Spirit, the building of our faith will continue to grow. Through the use of the "building" materials, God's Word and Sacraments, our faith will grow and withstand the time of testing in this world's storms. These "building materials" are offered to us free of charge, given freely to us by God. We are blessed also through our Bible study, church attendance, Christian fellowship, and our service in the LWML.

So, now the responsibility is ours. God is the Architect of the Church and He has chosen us as His workers to help build His Church according to His plans and specs. The foundation is found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; not by man's guidelines, rules, or interpretations, lest nay man should boast.

The Church is God's creation, the gathering of God's people meeting in the name of Jesus Christ crucified and risen.

We pray: Dear lord, help us to stand firm in the midst of the world's storms, on the true knowledge that Jesus Christ is the Foundation, the solid Rock, of our Lord's Church. We thank You for opening our hearts that the Holy Spirit may swell there. Increase our faith through the building materials You have given us so generously. As we gather together, You have promised tp be here with us. Thank You for forming and equipping us as Your children and workers. Amen.

(Close by singing or speaking "The Church's One Foundation" #644 LSB; #289 LW v. 1, 3)

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