



PREVIOUSLY ON

**CHURCH IN CRISIS:
A STUDY OF FIRST
CORINTHIANS**



A slam at their past...

1 Corinthians 3:1-2a

¹Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it.

Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

Paul

Nicodemus / Saul

Born Again

Religious Person

Spiritual - "Christian"

Inoculated with Gospel

No

Corinthians

Woman at the Well
(John 4)

Tortured / Troubled /
Inconsistent

Happy Non-Christian

Think and live so?

You are worldly! God is the grower!

1 Corinthians 3:2b-9a

Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men? ⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God’s fellow workers...

Getting your contractor license in the Kingdom

1 Corinthians 3:9

⁹For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it.

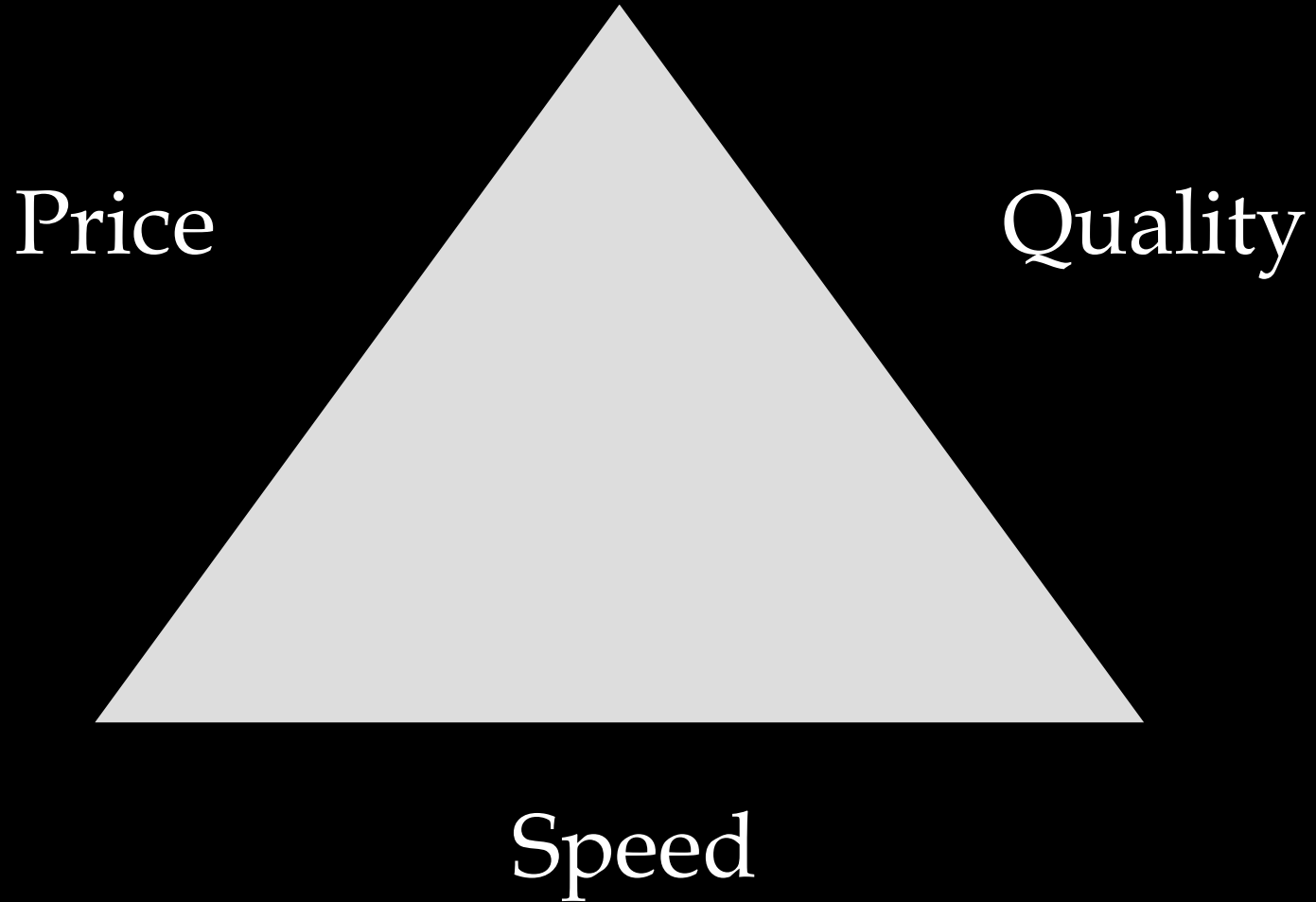
But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Those who build WILL get their work tested by God!

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

¹²If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

The Contractor Triangle



*Ways the church has given in to “quick fix”
and “cheap” ways of building:*

1. Church “Growth” as the end

2. A loss of theological robustness (and therefore,
Jesus!)

3. Disregarding God’s design of the church

The German Chronicles ...

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

The following takes place between 9 and 10:30am

[or 11am and 12:30pm if you are in second service]

1 Corinthians 3:18-4:5

¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a “fool” so that he may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness” [Job 5:13]; ²⁰and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” [Psalm 94:11] ²¹So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future – all are yours, ²³and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

The following takes place between 9 and 10:30am

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1 Corinthians 3:18-4:5

¹So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. ²Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. ³I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. ⁴My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

How to view yourself and others...

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Consider the Danger of sin

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Proverbs 22:3

³A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge,
but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

Consider the Danger of sin

Isaiah 59:2, 3

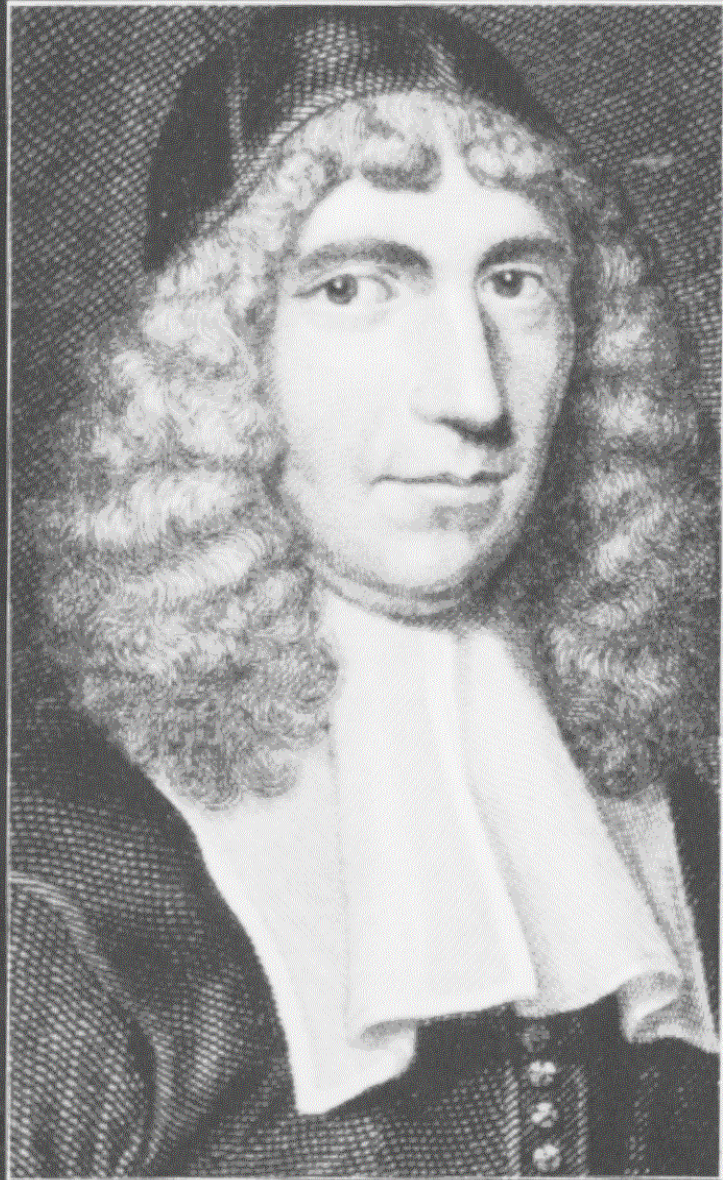
²But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. ³For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things.

Consider the Danger of sin

Hebrews 3:12, 13

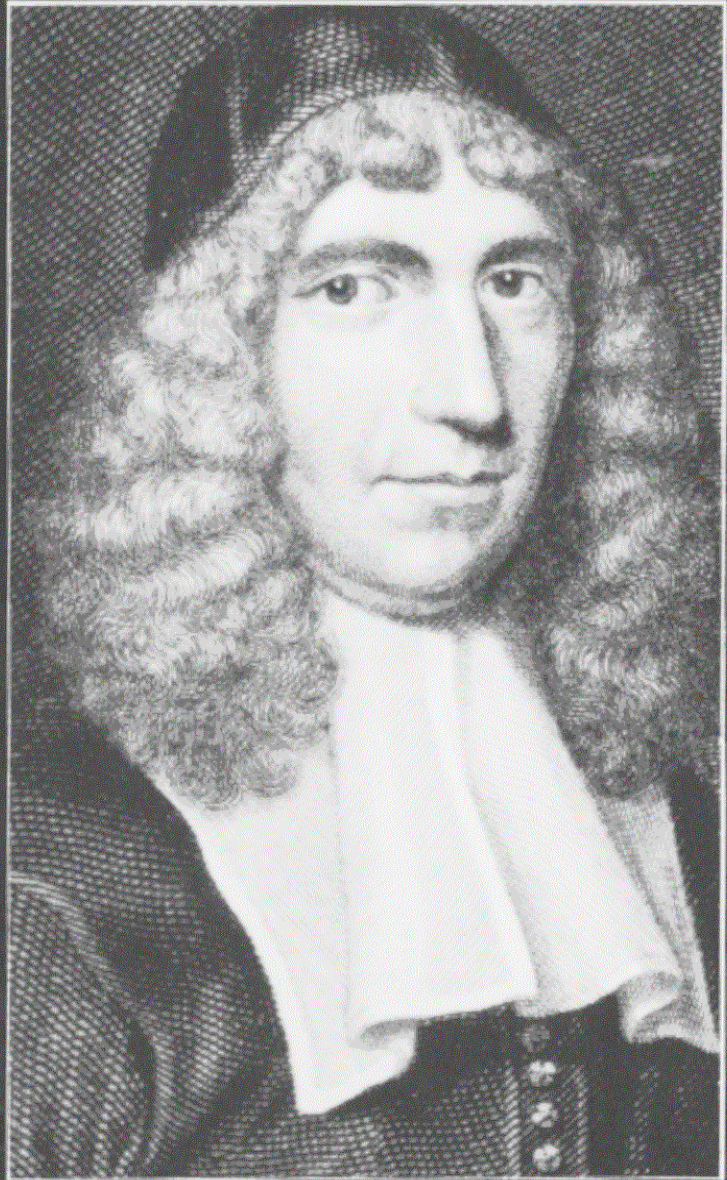
¹²See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Consider the danger...



“Take heed,” says he, “use all means, consider your temptations, watch diligently; there is a treachery, a deceit in sin, that tends to the hardening of your hearts from the fear of God.” The hardening here mentioned is to the utmost – utter obduration [hardening]; sin tends to it, and every distemper and lust will make at least some progress toward it. You that were tender, and used to melt under the word, under afflictions, will grow as some have profanely spoken, “sermon-proof and sickness-proof”

Consider the danger...



“Take heed, this is that [which] your lust is working toward – the hardening of the heart, searing of the conscience, blinding of the mind, stupifying of the affections, and deceiving of the whole soul.”

~ John Owen – The Mortification of Sin quoted from *Overcoming Sin and Temptation*, page 99.

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The twist on this idea...

1 Corinthians 1:18, 25

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...

²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

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Factionalists Ignore the
Wealth of the Heritage
We as Christians
Properly Enjoy.

“The world tries to impress with its rhetoric and sophistication....
The apostles of Jesus Christ prize truth above style and quietly
refuse to endorse any form that may prove ... diversionary ...
[from] gospel truth.”

~ D. A. Carson, *The Cross and the Christian Ministry*, 84; cf. 84–89.

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1 Corinthians 3:21-4:1

²¹So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours,
²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death
or the present or the future — all are yours, ²³and you are of Christ,
and Christ is of God. ¹So then, men ought to regard us as servants
of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.

1 Corinthians 15:23-28

²³ But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For he “has put everything under his feet.” [Psalm 8:6] Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸ When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

Romans 8:38

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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**“You keep using that
word... I do not think it
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The study of how we know anything



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2. The Bible is the Norming Norm

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4. "You keep using that word... I do not think it means what you think it means"

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Application

Do you think you are wiser than God?

Are you a “fool” for Jesus?

How do you view other people? Too highly? Too lowly?

How do you view yourself?

Do you think your thoughts (and judgments!) are perfect?

Do you wait for God to reveal himself, now or in the future?