

nov 17, 2022

building your house

"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." 1 cor 3:10

an elderly carpenter was ready to retire. he told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house-building business to live a more leisurely life with his wife and enjoy his extended family. he would miss the paycheck each week, but he wanted to retire. they could get by.

the contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. the carpenter said yes, but over time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. he resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. it was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

when the carpenter finished his work, his employer came to inspect the house. then he handed the front-door key to the carpenter and said, "this is your house... my gift to you."

the carpenter was shocked!

what a shame! if he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently.

so it is with us. we build our lives, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. then, with a shock, we realize we have to live in the house we have built. if we could do it over, we would do it much differently.

but, you cannot go back. you are the carpenter, and every day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. someone once said, "life is a do-it-yourself project." your attitude, and the choices you make today, help build the "house" you will live in tomorrow. therefore, build wisely!

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if anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. if anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." 1 cor 3:14-15

God gave His best for us. are we willing to give less for Him? "with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord." eph 6:7-8

i used to carry my paper money neatly folded in my purse with the newest bills on the inside and the older ones on the outside folded in. i would spend the old bills first and keep the newer ones. to my now regret, the old bills were also the first ones to go in the offering plate at church. you may think that is a small thing and that they all spend the same. that's true, but to me it was symbolic of not always giving God your best. He gave His best for me. could i not

give my best for Him?

it doesn't matter who you're working for or what you're doing, you need to perform your task to your best ability - even as though you were doing it for the Lord Himself. it's not just a matter of pride in you're work although that should play a part. it's a matter of being called a christian and representing Him.

now go forth and make Him proud. "and whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men." col 3:23