

Week of November 17, 2024 - What is Paul? Small Group Lesson 8

Connect

Have everyone share a brief story about a teacher or mentor who significantly impacted their life. How did this person point them towards Christ?

Verses - 1 Corinthians 3:5-17 (CSB)

Read aloud:

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants through whom you
believed, and each has the role the Lord has given. 6 I planted, Apollos
watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So, then, neither the one who plants nor
the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 Now he
who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his own reward
according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field,
God's building. 10 According to God's grace that was given to me, I have laid a
foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it. But each one
is to be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other
than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone
builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw,
13 each one's work will become obvious. For the day will disclose it, because it
will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. 14 If
anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If
anyone's work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be
saved — but only as through fire. 16 Don't you yourselves know that you are
God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys
God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and that is what
you are.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. What point is Paul trying to make when he says, "What then is Apollos? What is Paul?" (v.5)
2. How does the analogy of planting and watering illustrate the role of God in spiritual growth? (v.7)
3. Why is Jesus Christ the foundation, and why is that important? (v.11)
4. What is the difference between works that are compared to "gold, silver, costly stones" compared with "wood, hay, and straw"? (vv.12-15)
5. What does it mean to be "God's temple" and how does one become one? (v.16)

Share

Discuss this analogy from this week's message:
Pastor Takeshi shared an illustration to highlight teachers and tools that have different roles, at a different stage of our lives.

Which teachers or tools in your life have been most beneficial to your spiritual growth?

Discuss:

Pastor Takeshi points out that Paul is saying that we, the church, are God's temple, containing God's Spirit, showing God's character, to the world.

How can we, as a church, practically show God's character to the world?

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.