

## Productivity... or just Activity?

In **1 Corinthians 3:11-15** the great Apostle Paul writes that if we are going to be successful in our quest to be part of building the church that Jesus promised to build in and through us, He must be its foundation. He then writes that there are two types of building materials:



- **GOLD, SILVER and PRECIOUS STONES** have eternal value and will survive life's testing. The Bible reminds us that trials are certain to come into each of our lives and that if our foundation is Jesus and we stand on His strength; the fire of affliction cannot destroy what God is doing in us.
- **WOOD, HAY and STRAW** have no eternal value and cannot stand life's testing. Some of the things that we do are spiritually of no value and are certain to burn away when tested by life-trials.

In order for us to build on Jesus as our foundation we must know Him and to build with gold silver and precious stones, we must know what they are. To know Jesus and to know good building material; search His word.

The Bible is where we gain the understanding of whom the Lord is and what His vision for His church is. Build wisely Christian. Lay your foundation on Jesus and use only the quality materials as revealed in Scripture. Search His word diligently and gain insight to the mind of Christ that you may live and walk well.

**Blessings to you today, Pastor Gene**

## Treasure or Trash?

**Introduction:** As Christians, we are called into a life that is productive and not merely active. Last week we learned that for us to be productive as followers of Jesus, we have to build on Him as our foundation and we must build with the right materials, because all things, (including us) will be tested by fire. When the fire of life-trials come upon us our activities will reveal whether or not they were productive. How do we measure which of our activities have eternal value and which only have temporal or even no value. Which are good works and which are dead works? What is treasure and what is trash? Let us consider three questions:

- What Treasure is of No Value? **Luke 12:21** *"So is he, who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God"* God is not impressed by our stuff. God's measure of what has value and what does not is not always what we think. The things of this life are quickly passing and their value quickly fades away. Jesus asks in **Mark 8:36** *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his soul?"* *You can't take it with you and wouldn't want to anyway.*
- What Treasure is of Great Value? **Mathew 6:20** *"but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."* Not everything that we do, even though they may be good things, have eternal value. Things of the flesh are flesh and die. Things of the Spirit are Spirit and live. **Ephesians 2:10** says that God has prepared heavenly-treasure for each of us to earn. *Do as God would have you do and gain heavenly Treasure.*
- Which is Treasure and which is Trash? **Philippians 3:7-11** *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted (as) loss for Christ... and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...* Paul came to understand what is important to God and what is not. After a lifetime of chasing God, he finally realized that he was running the wrong way. **Galatians 5:16-26** reveals things of the Spirit and things of the flesh. *Choose Spirit over flesh and see What God will do.*

One man's trash is another man's treasure. It's a matter of perspective. But when God looks at things there is no doubt which is which. What is trash and what is productivity and what is merely activity? To know how God sees things, see God. To see God, search His word. The Bible is a Treasure trove of wisdom and direction. Don't allow the trash of this world to be a substitute to our great and all-knowing God. Gain treasure Christian... And lose the trash.