1 Corinthians 3: 10-13 Foundations

Consider the building work in the area. Building behind the pub in Great Missenden. Homes starting in Naphill. Even the blot on the landscape – HS2.

All may have different characters – but all need solid foundations.

Scripture – Paul states it is the same with our faith. He had laid good foundation.

What is a good foundation?

Difficult task – John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Does that need more expansion? God – love, Jesus, crucified – risen – for our relationship with heavenly Father to flourish.

Needs to be built on – influences from all around.

Back further than New Testament – God was foundation. His love, His affection.

Looking at the history of God’s people throughout kings – built new laws. Paul states that God will test with fire. Judgement. How did they fare?

If we now come forward to the New Testament – seems similar problems were developing in Corinth.

Corinth – thriving city – was chief city of Greece, commercially and politically.

2 harbours - trade with many countries. Spain, Italy, Egypt. Sound familiar?

Greek culture – People interested in philosophy and wisdom.

Contained at least 12 temples – Jewish synagogue amongst Apollo, Asclepius, and infamously Aphrodite goddess of love – religious prostitution.

Verb arose “to Corinthianize” which summed up sexual immorality.

Paul was responding to messages received from people in the church concerned over the way the church was going – other practices infiltrating.

Theme of the whole letter was continuing development of a holy character

What are we building on the foundations? Gold, silver, costly stones (good)

Wood, hay or straw (bad)

Steve Chalk book “He never said”

God helps those who help themselves? - God’s heart is for the vulnerable. Beatitudes – “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God”. Obedience and trust

And now for a time of worship - **reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power** also : an act of expressing such reverence. extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem.  whole life should reflect our commitment to become like Christ. Matthew 28: 9 “Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him”. When we begin singing Jesus does not suddenly appear, it often takes time to “meet” Him.

Religion and politics don’t mix – Romans 13: 1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Pray the little prayer with me. - If people accepted Jesus, He simply continued to walk with them.

If you’re a nice person, nice things will happen to you –John 16: 33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

What words have we put into the mouth of Jesus?

When in doubt – return to foundations. Those will never change. Take time often to ensure that what you have built upon those foundations reflect it.

Sometimes, need to demolish some pieces of our building and begin again with complete understanding.

Hear the voice of Jesus say – nothing to be added or subtracted.