

Of Harvest Helpers and Temple Builders

(1 Corinthians 3, 4)

How to do God's work in the midst of hero-worship values and competitive environments .

1. Get jazzed about God and you won't jostle over the mundane (3:1-6, 21-23, 4:6-7) .

You may have The Spirit; but is The Spirit in charge!

Do farmers consider themselves the heroes of harvest?

Compared to God's role, we are all bit players in the amazing drama of salvation – like lit candles in the sunlight .

1. Get ourselves on the same page (3:7-10) .

“ What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don 't get it . You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want ...” (James 4:1-2)

Only servants who are nothing , but are all needed to serve in our assigned task . (5)

“ One purpose ” (8) – *“ You also like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ”* (1 Peter 2:5)

1. Get selectively strategic in the stewardship of your life – What lasts brings HIS praise (3:11-20) .

“Every church collapses without Jesus Christ as the foundation .“ (Piper)

Your “temple work” will be graded – you don't build a temple the same way you build an ordinary home. (14)

How much of your day/effort is of no eternal value? Of no costly effort?

Year End Tally: Temple- Building Materials Balance Sheet (Quality of Time, Talent, Treasure) _____ % _____ % _____ %	
Fireproof	Combustible
Mission	Temporary
Ministry	Material Things
Eternity	Entertainment
Righteousness	Leisure
People	Trashing the temple
Transformation	

There is nothing more important to God than the church! – Destroyers of churches will be eternally destroyed (16-17) .

1. Guard the trust for dear life – it belongs to a powerful Other (3:18; 4:1-5; 8 ff) .

Be very selective to whom and to what you hitch your wagon – are they leading and building fireproof stuff? (4:1)

You don't belong to various leaders, as servants of GOD those leaders belong to you and each other – leading is a trust and God's measurement is faithfulness . (3:22; 4:2)

Be influenced by Christ alone and never feel pressured by the judgement of others (be immune to political pressure) . (4:3-4)

Be guarded in your assessments – so much is hidden – what should be, will be, when Christ settles accounts . (4:5)

Boasting is hypocrisy since nothing you have or are able to do comes from you. (4:7)

Hyperactivity (*and hyper - exposure*) is presumptuous since none of us are indispensable . (B o c k)

The crisis of the church in the West, smug, spiritually satisfied, with attention deficit disorder, is its inability to stand up in the least amount of discomfort (4:8-19) .

“T he kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power . ” (4:20)