

**“ONLY WHAT’S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST!”**

*(1 Corinthians 3:10-15)*

Speaking from a heart which overflows with gratitude to God, I personally praise the Lord for how gracious God is, how powerful God’s Word is, how precious my marriage is and how valuable the Lord’s church is. As one of your pastors, I consider it a glorious and undeserved privilege to be called by the Lord to shepherd you and teach God’s Word to you. If there is one outstanding lesson I want to impart to you, it is this biblical principle: *“Only one life, it will soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last!”* Reflecting from Paul’s instruction on serving Christ and His church, let’s consider these pastoral exhortations on how we should seriously regard the privilege of serving and working for the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1. Remember that we are all given the gracious privilege of \_\_\_\_\_  
the church of Christ.**

The grace of God does not only save us. It also empowers and equips us to serve Christ and labor for His cause (1Cor. 3:10; Eph. 3:7-8). Paul reminds us that as he was called by God to build and establish the Corinthian church upon the foundation of Christ and His gospel, every believer is also called by the Lord to fulfill his/her role in building the church of Christ (1 Cor. 3:10-11). The best proof of our love and gratitude to the One who saved us is our joyful ministry and diligent work for Christ’s church.

**2. Remember that we will be evaluated according to the \_\_\_\_\_  
of our works for Christ.**

The judgment of believers will test the quality of our ministries and works for the Lord to determine if they are worthy of rewards or not. Paul uses the imagery of precious materials (gold, silver, costly stones) to represent the works deserving of reward from God and inferior materials (wood, hay, straw) to describe the worthless and wasted works of Christians (1 Cor. 3:12-13). The works which will be graciously commended by Christ are the ministries driven by pure motives (1 Cor. 4:4-5; 10:31; 1 Thess. 2:4) and services characterized by faithful stewardship (1 Cor. 4:1-2).

**3. Remember that we will receive corresponding \_\_\_\_\_  
for all our labors for Christ.**

The judgment seat of Christ will be a day of rejoicing for Christians who serve God wholeheartedly for the Lord Himself has promised corresponding eternal rewards to His faithful servants (1 Cor. 3:14-15). The Scriptures mention various kinds of rewards such as the crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:7-8); the crown of life (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10); the crown of joy (1 Thess. 2:19-20; Phil. 4:1); the crown of glory (1 Pet. 5:2-5); and the eternal crown (1 Cor. 9:25-27). In light of these promised rewards, let these words from Pastor C.H. Studd encourage us to serve the Lord joyfully and faithfully: *“Only one life; Yes, only one. Soon will its fleeting hours be done. Then in that day my Lord to meet, and stand by His judgment seat. Only one life, it will soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last!”*

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