

15. Paul takes the congregation back to the original foundation of the church. He indicates that he followed the procedure outlined above.
16. Paul asserted that he was “like a wise general contractor, I laid a foundation (Paul), and another (Apollos) is building on it.”
17. Paul and Apollos were following the construction plan outlined by Paul in establishing a local church. Subsequent rebellion and conspiracies are therefore assigned to the membership. Paul is making the effort to check the antiauthority arrogance with his First Epistle to the Corinthians.
18. Having built his case he now begins his warnings and illustrations. First the warning:

1 Corinthians 3:10b - But each man must be careful how he builds it.

19. A pastor is at the mercy of the congregation. He may study and then teach, but failure of parishioners to learn AND apply what is taught means that the spiritual status of the church body is not determined by leadership but by its members.
20. The warning is directed at those members in Corinth who have rebelled against the teaching of Apollos.
21. Principle: The sure sign of a broken fellowship and the presence of antiauthority arrogance is when the pastor pulls up stakes and leaves. Certain that his interpretation and communication of doctrine is correct, but “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not” (Romans 11:8 NASB), so he dusts off his shoes and heads down the road.
22. Bad circumstances in the church at Corinth has reached the house of Chloe who sent a report to Paul:

1 Corinthians 1:11 - I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are quarrels among you. (NASB)

23. Chloe¹ is a hapax legomenon, the only place in the Bible where she is mentioned. But she must have been an advanced believer who recognized the bad situation and chose to inform Paul.
24. Paul's response includes the illustration he presents in chapter 3. When it comes to building on the foundation, "each man must be careful how he builds on it."
25. Again we are reminded of the visual: Four Categories of Positive or Negative Volition. Negative volition along this visual's red zone results in reversionism. As it spreads, doctrinal degeneration in the souls of the people leads to diminishing historical impact.

1 Corinthians 3:10 - According to the grace policy or criterion of the integrity of God which is given to me, like a wise general contractor I have laid the foundation of the church at Corinth and another, namely Apollos, has built upon it. But let each one of you beware how you build on it. (EXT)

26. Paul and Apollos, through their teaching, have endeavored to build a local church in Corinth and to accomplish the same idea in the souls of its members.
27. From doctrine taught, these same members are to build a building of biblical truth and categorical doctrines in their souls.
28. From this process they are to produce divine good upon a secure foundation.
29. Paul then makes it perfectly clear Who is the true foundation upon which the believer's production is to be built:

1 Corinthians 3:11 - For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (NASB)

¹ "Chloe was a resident either of Corinth or Ephesus. Paul had been informed by some of her household, probably Christian slaves, of the dissensions in the church at Corinth" (*The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia* [Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956], 1:612).

30. Divine good production must have its origin in absolute truth contained in Scripture which verse 16 informs us is the “mind of Christ.”
31. The foundation upon which this divine good stands must be on one that no man can lay. The foundation starts with faith alone in Christ alone.
32. Once saved, Christ becomes the foundation of one’s spiritual advance. There is no other valid foundation laid, the present passive participle of the verb **κεῖμαι** (*keimai*). The present tense indicates multiple production of actions associated with the foundation.
33. The passive voice indicates that the foundation is available throughout the history of the Church Age and received by grace at the moment of salvation.
34. The participle guarantees that the provision of the foundation is available to every believer through faith.
35. Conclusion: the foundation built by Christ is for the purpose of production by the believer. There is no other viable foundation available. The only way to appropriate it is through a faith response to the gospel.
36. All other efforts to lay a foundation that is acceptable to God are fraudulent and must be dismissed as erroneous and heretical regardless of its proponent’s beliefs.
37. Here is an excerpts on the absolute and unique nature of the foundation laid by Christ:

With a completed revelation gifts of the Holy Spirit that are concerned with imparting special knowledge were no longer needed and were phased out. No one since the first century has the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to “prophecy” or to impart “knowledge” since all of the forthtelling and revelation of knowledge which the Holy Spirit has to give at this time has already been given in the Greek New Testament. Mormons and Pentecostalists who lay claim to special gifts which they call charismatic, presume to occupy the role of special prophets and knowledge dispensers, as though the Holy Spirit had not completed the revelation of ὁ Λόγος.

The rise in the last century of “prophets” and “knowledge dispensers” such as the Millerites, Ellen White, Charles Russell, Mary Baker Eddy, Joseph Smith, and the Pentecostal cults,² are a threat to New Testament exegesis, for who would wish to spend his time in a painstaking exegesis of a document which is not yet finished? If I were not assured that the Holy Spirit has completed the revelation of Jesus Christ, and that it is contained in full in the Greek New Testament, I would wait until He has written the last word. No serious student of literature attempts to evaluate what is said until he comes to the end of the piece. The Holy Spirit has already revealed all that He has to say and it is all the truth about Jesus Christ that God wants us to know at this time. The sentence is finished and the period is in place at the end. I am not therefore interested in what the cultists have to say. (p. 163)

NonChristian institutions are really anti-Christian institutions, and are destined to fail and fall, despite their protestations with reference to ideals, to which they are not logically entitled. If only our Lord Jesus Christ can undergird a viable superstructure, then the United Nations cannot, nor any other nonChristian institution. They represent the futile attempts of depraved men to build a peaceful and just world society independent of God. Witness Babel.³ (pp. 163–64)

² “Millerites: Adventism; Ellen White: Seventh Day Adventist; Charles Russell: Jehovah’s Witnesses; Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Science; Joseph Smith: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and Pentecostals: Spirit baptism evidenced by speaking in tongues” (J. D. Douglas, gen. ed. *The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*, rev. ed. [Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1978], 660, 1043, 864, 328, 910, 763).

³ Randolph O. Yeager, “1 Corinthians 3:11” in *The Renaissance New Testament* (Gretna, La: Pelican Publishing Co., 1983), 12: 363–64.