

The Crowns In Corinthians – 3 “Masterpiece”
Pastor O’Dorisio – August 27, 2025
Bible Text: [1 Corinthians 3:5-12](#) ...

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Well, let’s go ahead and continue on with The Crowns In Corinthians, and we’re in the third chapter tonight. And a couple weeks ago we started with the crown of the base. And we are thankful to understand that’s what He chose; He chose the lowly, He chose the weak; He chose those base things to confuse the wise. We’re thankful to God. I can’t really understand the grace and mercy of the Lord. We want to have Him have all the glory, and why shouldn’t we because He is all the glory, and I thank the Lord that it’s Christ in you, it’s Christ in me the hope of glory. And so, I thank the Lord that we have that one praise, and one spirit, and one faith. And thanking God that He chose us earthen vessels to put that treasure in, and it’s a mighty and glorious thing. 01:04

So, we started with the crown of the base, and that’s His choice. We moved on to the crown of the perfect, and that’s the message of the mystery that He’s given to us. And tonight, it’s the crown of the masterpiece that we’re building, and we’ll begin reading from First Corinthians Chapter Three, verse five. Paul’s speaking here, he says, who then is Paul? And who is Apollos, but ministers? Isn’t that glorious? Vessels that minister the word of God by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. See, only God can do it saints, and that’s where we are so thankful to the Lord. We pray, but only God can do it, only God can move and He will, He’ll be gracious to whom He will be gracious. And we have family, we have loved ones, we want them to take more truth, and God help us not to be ashamed of the gospel of Christ; it is the power of God. 02:20

And we want to be bold in that, and truly that we would preach truth in love to people, but you cannot force them. And by the grace of God help us all to wait on the Lord. But He said I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that plants anything, neither is he that watereth; thank You Lord Jesus to not think more of ourselves that we are, huh? So, it’s not neither, so then neither is he that plants anything, neither is he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase. I’ll tell you what, He’s it. Now he that plants, and he that waters are one; see, were one in that, and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor, for we are laborers together with God. Ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building. See, your laborers together. I always appreciated thinking early on with Sister Lynn and we would just be so overwhelmed that looking up that word vessel that you find in the word of God, that word in the Greek, it means adding to the usefulness of the husband, and that’s such a glorious encouragement to us. And the depth and the layers in the little things of the word of God, I thank the Lord it’s of kings to search out a matter, aren’t you? 04:00

And I’m grateful, as he said we’re laborers together, we should be encouraging one another. Encouraging one another because we want to hear the word of God, we

want to gather; we don't want to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as we see that day approaching, we want to assemble more and more. And we're thankful because it's the love of Christ. So, we are God's husbandry. He does all the pruning, He does all the work on the vine, He has great patience, and He's waiting for us. And we are God's building; we are not our own, are we? Aren't we thankful that we're not just His handywork, we're His masterwork. And this isn't something He spoke into existence; this is something that the word of His grace builds into a masterpiece. It's a glorious thing what He has for us.

04:53

And how does this happen? You're God's husbandry. You are God's building. How according, or by, or down from the grace of God. It's all by the grace of God and you're thankful for that so that's the election of grace saints. That's where we can rest and understand that we are God's work. We are thankful that He is the God that will give the increase. He's the God that said I will perform the good work which I begun in you. He's the God that said I will do it, and then He's also the God that said that He's done it. And so, how much rest will you take? How much grace will you believe that the Lord is sincere in the words that He speaks to you? And I thank the Lord for that. I've been rejoicing thinking about some of the songs that Brother Copley wrote whether I'm Living in Canaan Now, Title Deed, some of these other ones that basically it's just thanking the Lord; it's done, I'm living in it now. It hasn't yet been made manifest, but by the grace of God it doth not yet appear, but we know when we see Him, we shall be like Him.

06:11

And oh, how He's told you and shown you how you will be like Him. And by the word of His grace, it's even unto a perfect man like Him in the fullness, and the measure, and the stature like Him. See, He didn't have you just to hear like Him, He had you to hear the encouragement of the fulness of what grace will do and can do. That's the amazing thing that the Lord has chosen us for is to truly have an ear to hear that. To have an ear raise God of the Philippians, and the Philadelphia church that oh my, if by any means I might attain unto that resurrection. I hear and have an ear that says to me hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thou crown. That means something to me. That means everything to me. And I thank God that it is, it's the place that He wants for us. And thank You Lord Jesus, that you and I, we hear this.

07:17

So, it's according to the grace of God which is given unto me as Paul says. And I love how Paul continues to say these different things whether it's Colossians, whether it's Romans, that this mystery was given unto him for us. Isn't that beautiful? See, again we should be so thankful and rejoicing that we're in this age, and we're in this time that we are in this time praise God that we are after Pentecost, Praise God, we're in this time of the Church Age; we are in this time I know sometimes I've heard growing up, oh I wish I lived back in this time, or I wish I lived back in here. Even ten, or fifty, or sixty years ago it was better, and it was best. No, it's not, it's the best it's ever been today because Jesus could come today. And then I think of these stalwarts of faith especially in the Church Age time isn't that what they lived for was the appearing of the Lord? And thanks be to God

this is what we're talking about tonight, these are people that are not worried about their appearance, they're concerned about His appearing. And we thank the Lord, and that's the thing, and yet we're loving the appearing of the Lord, but we love the appearing of the Lord by the grace of God in His vessels of mercy. That's what we want. 08:44

I want His appearing; I'm not worried about my appearance. You know, I'm thankful, I'm getting older. There's not as many things to worry about. We just thank God, and you believe Him. So, it's according to the grace of God which He's given unto me as a wise master builder built with grace. I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. And remember this isn't Paul's foundation. Oh no, there's but one foundation. Paul just laid it out as to what was given to him. And he knew that he was the chief of sinners; this was the gravest of grace there could ever be that He would choose a wretch like me to bring forth the exceeding riches message of His grace. So, he says according to the grace of God which was given unto me as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another builds thereon. But let every man take heed how he builds there upon. 09:45

Now, here we go. He goes on and says, for other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, and here it is which is Jesus Christ. So, He's the foundation. He's everything alright? So, it's our precious Lord. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood hay, stubble every man's work shall be made manifest. For the day shall declare it because it shall be revealed by fire. And the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is, alright? If any man's work abides which he hath built there upon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire. So, we see that this is speaking about Christians. Because once you build upon that foundation praise God, you're a child of God. 10:54

That's the blood, you're on that foundation praise the Lord. But we're seeing here that there's materials that the Lord is encouraging us to go on with that will last, and those materials for building are gold, silver, and precious stones. Those are the ones that don't just get burned off like the wood, hay, and the stubble. And I thank the Lord for that because again as I mentioned earlier the gold, silver, and precious stones, you're talking about royalty; you're talking about ruling and reigning, you're speaking praise God of the throne room, and we're grateful to God that that's what we have been called to. That's what God has shown us that when He said we are born Lord of all in Galatians Chapter Four, verse one, He meant that. 11:43

We were meant by God's grace, by His birth, by the birthright to rule and to reign jointly together with Him. And I thank the Lord that this is what He wants us to build upon. The gold, silver, and precious stones brothers and sisters cannot come from anything else but Paul's gospel. It's the only gospel there is that teaches and preaches ruling and reigning jointly with Jesus Christ. It's the gospel of the crown; it's not the gospel of Paul. I don't know of many palms that were gold that were weighed; they're of palm, but the

crown is gold, and we're so thankful, this is what the Lord hallelujah wants for us. And let's think about these things; the gold, silver, and precious stones, they're jewels. And jewels, and these precious things they're not just laid out; they're hidden away. They're locked up most of the time. That's why we have jewelry cabinets, and jewelry boxes, and safes and different things. You don't just lay those things out around your house. You might have a wood chest, or whatever it is here and there, or a piece of a wooden mallet. You might have some wooden spoons that you use to cook, but you're not going to lay your gold, silver, and precious stones all around your house everywhere like that. You're going to hide them away because they're valuable; they're scarce until there's an appropriate time for them to be displayed. It's a glorious thing to think about. 13:15

These jewels are rare and they're scarce. Wood, hay, and stubble are large, it's common, you see it all around, but the rare things are those hidden gems, and the goodly pearl is the rarest of all as the word of God says, and it was so valuable our precious Lord sold all that He had to have her. All creation it says in Romans 8:19, this is how rare and how precious this is, and we read this verse many times in Romans Eight Nineteen. But this is what all of creation is waiting for; everything of creation is groaning for this because it says in Romans 8:19. For the earnest expectation of all creation, the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. And that word manifestation is the apocalypse; it's the same word, it means the unveiling. And those sons of God that are going to be unveiled are not the Teknon sons; they're not the babies. That word sons means Huioi in the Greek. Those are the mature sons of God, the ones that have grown up to full maturity. Those are the ones that have taken the fulness of the grace of God and truly have allowed their lives to change from glory to glory into His very image. Praise God, and you're thankful for these things. How could there be as John was taken up into heaven, and you think about the things that he was being shown? All of the wonder, all of the types, the signs, and praise be to God there they were in vivid living, amazing. The four living ones, the seven angels, the innumerable multitude, the hundred and forty-four thousand; all of these things were being shown. 15:07

And that one that was showing them around, he was able to explain, and to point it out, and to show him where it was, and what they were and when this would be. And that one that was showing them around John kept worshipping. John kept falling down, but one that knew Jesus for all those years, that laid his head on Jesus's breast. That one that would of, by the grace of God, would never worship anyone but Jesus Christ. But there he did two different times, he falls down and starts worshipping, and because he is so Christ like. And each time it's so beautiful, he lifts him back up, he says don't do that. I'm a redeemed son of God just like you. Now how do you think he got that way? By building wood, hay, and stubble? Or did he go after the gold, and the silver, and the precious stone? You know that that's the only way that that transformation, that fulness, that Huioi son, the sons of God; the ones that will be the apocalypse; the unveiling, the bride for the Lamb of God, hallelujah. And aren't you thankful that's not only what we know, we say well that's just what is. 16:26

So, what's on display in Christianity right now sadly, and has been for a long time is the giant wood building. Let's just be honest, it's the giant stubble, it's the giant self-righteous structures, the dead works like we talked about on Sunday. It's the leaven buildings, have you been to the leaven building? I'm so thankful this is a gold, silver, and precious stone building. That's what we have, and I thank the Lord I will be bold and I'm so thankful for what the grace of God is kept here. All grace to these ones that are of leaven, and the wood, hay, and stubble all grace isn't completely all sufficient for them. God's mercy isn't enough; you still have to do something. But what we're reading about tonight is if you want growth, and you want this building it's hearing, and it's hearing, and it's hearing by the word of His grace. That's it, that's the only way this building comes about. Now, let's be assured of this and let's go on over to Acts Chapter Twenty, verse thirty-two; that's Acts, and I thank God we know these scriptures. Paul here getting ready to depart from the elders that are in Ephesus. He's been there a space of three years, and here's the last thing he says unto them in verse thirty-two. And now brethren I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace; I commend you to God, I commend you to the word of His grace which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

18:19

Now, this word command is a very amazing word. It literally means to set before as a feast and eat. So, what Paul is saying is set before yourself and just eat, and eat, and eat the word of His grace; don't feast on anything else. Now, I want us to read the prior two verses before we get to verse thirty-two and now really understand the importance of what's he's saying in verse thirty-two. He says to them, also of your own selves; of your own selves shall men arise. Of your own selves, your meetings, matter of fact even a new elder then will rise speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them. Think of this, he's speaking to the elders, and he says men of your own selves. You see those guys eyes probably got this big and almost like what the disciples in Jesus; one of you is a devil. The Lord knows saints, and that's why we need to pray. But for the grace of God, Lord just help me. Help me to just to desire Your grace, help me to pray Lord, I just want more and more of the word of Your grace, and He'll do it. He'll give you the desires of your heart, He really will. He's doing it.

19:57

So, also of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. So, he was there three years, and it says he warned them night and day. I did the math on that, that's two thousand, one hundred and ninety sermons. That would be like having Paul for your pastor forty-two years; that's how many Sundays in a three-year span of time that he's there warning with tears. Forty-two years of sermons, and he's repeating the same thing in a condensed time of three years. You think he's trying to get a point across? Is he trying to tell you this really does happen, and you know what brothers and sisters? It's the word of God, and it goes on. There's nothing new about it, it's what men do, and it's the only thing men can do when they look away from the perfect law of liberty.

21:28

It's either works or it's grace. That neutral you cannot be, you're going one way or the other. It's just the way the word of God sets it up. It's either the Spirit, or it's going to be flesh and it's all the enemy wants, and that's all the enemy wants to do. He knows he can't keep you out of heaven, but you think about all he wants to do, and all he needs to do is to get you to take a little leaven; just a little. And that's why it's so important saints because the little leaven doesn't stay a little leaven. God even gave us bread to show us that; that the example He gave us. You can have this great love that doesn't have any leaven in it at all, but you put a little leaven in there, and it's all through it. It doesn't just stay in the one little part; it goes all the way through. 22:40

And that is not and will not result in a crown. It won't result on building on the foundation gold, silver, and precious stone. What the leaven does is it builds on that foundation wood, hay, and stubble. Thanks be to God that every life by the grace of God because of the blood of Jesus is so everlasting that that life will be saved, but isn't it a tragedy of what that life could have had? And we thank the Lord, and you know that's why I was just so grateful for you know the message that the Lord gave us at Marc Cordava's funeral. The word of His grace is a marvelous thing saints. Grace is there again; it's not an excuse ever. You people, they don't get this, it's not an excuse to go out there and live any way you want or not care. When you grow in grace you lock in. And you lock in because it's so wonderful, and Brother Mark locked in even with such a thorn. Samson locked in even with such a thorn. My heart hurts for Samson's life. I thank the Lord with what God can bring through a couple that's equally yoked seeking the things of God together. It doesn't mean that everything is going to work out. I've seen people that are equally yoked, and you know it, they get divorced. 24:39

This isn't just well, I checked the box and it's going to work. But let me tell you something, when you got opportunity to yield to the things of God, yield. He's encouraging you, take it, and then pray and never pat yourself on the back because that wasn't you. When you turn from grace there's nowhere else to go but to an accursed doctrine, the truth honey. I want you to always pray for me, and I want to always pray for you. There's no other gospel, and I thank the Lord that it excites me that the Lord loves us so that to keep that in our hearts, and not as a duty, but as a love, as a privilege as the greatest blessing of our lives, amen? So, there isn't anything to be proud about, it's everything to be thankful about because it's all grace. 25:51

So, we understand with what Paul's saying again, and he's saying the same thing again and again because there's really nothing else to say except stay with strong meat feasting on the word of His grace; that's where we need to be standing, and only being, and keeping, looking at the perfect law of liberty, that the only growth is the word is as God says, you grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And once again that's just it, it's all about the materials; the materials that to properly build anything. I've been doing a lot of building lately, and it's kind of interesting because it's like I love it in a way, and I sure love when it's finished, but every time I start, I say what am I doing you know? Because you know, you have to be careful. You have to watch,

one thing gets out of place and man I'll tell you what, you're whole building is wonky. You know, it's just like you know, you set that compass on a flight you better not be off an eighth of a degree. You go a thousand miles, and you missed it by at least by a hundred, and it's the truth.

27:01

And how much more when you're lines aren't plumbed, and you know, this isn't level or something like that? Well, it's close, you don't want it close, you want it exact. And this is what this building is, it must be exact. I think about how you read about these buildings that weren't made with the proper steel and the steel cracks and the buildings, they come down. I was thinking about the concrete that they used out there on the runways, at DIA. They used the wrong stuff; they didn't have the right mix. Henry come in here and tell you all about that. And you get that in there wrong, they had to tear all that up. Tens and tens of millions of dollars, huh? You want the jewels of royalty, you want that gold, silver, and precious stone to be built in your life? It's only going to be Paul's gospel of full grace, and that's it. See, man gets excited when they build buildings that last five hundred years. All those beautiful buildings at the university of Denver, that was a project, we're going to buildings that last five hundred years. I saw the Donelli's, they just went to Italy, and they got to see the Pantheon. The Pantheon's a building there two thousand years old, and they kept it really nice two thousand years. The pyramids in Egypt; what are they? Four thousand five hundred years old; that's old. But see, God's building is forever, its eternity, never ending thank You Jesus. Because the building is Jesus Christ. See, it's the word that endures forever. It's the word, everything else will pass away. The word, Jesus Christ, that's what endures forever. So, see, man's works always get burned up thank you Jesus. We saw that from the very beginning with Cain and the labor of his hands.

29:00

One thing else about I wanted to mention about the wood, hay, and stubble, one thing that man likes about it, it can be grown in a relatively quick time; it doesn't take long to do that. Gold, silver, and precious stone takes a long time. You need to be patient. I was reading about gold and silver, even how they come about takes about a billion years for it to be made, I guess. I don't really understand about it, but God can speak it unto existence, but this is man's looking at it. Remember, God made man; he wasn't a baby, he was a man. How He made this earth, you know what, I trust Him and He could make this earth look many billions of years old if He wanted to. So, why don't we just leave that to God? But gold and silver could take a billion years to form and then takes a million years to push them up to the surface; isn't that something.

30:10

And now let's talk about a diamond or a ruby. It says those take three billion years to make; I wonder who was around that long to look at them all to get them there? But then it takes a volcano to erupt, to blast those jewels to the top. Isn't that something? And then even when it all even comes forth, I'll tell you what, there's a lot of people that have walked over some very valuable diamonds for years, and years, and years, and years and they just thought it was a rock. So even though it was made, and it was that strong, and that beauty was right there you pass right over it. Then, even when you find it sure

doesn't look like much. But in the Master's hand it's everything. You know that? It got me thinking about Michelangelo and the David, and I really pray the Donelli's went and saw David. They didn't give me the picture of the real David, but the one on the outside, they said oh it looks just like it, and I said uh huh. You got to go see that David, they had to throw me out of there, you only get one hour Jaun. I think about that those stones make sweet brother. 31:30

But there was Michelangelo, and they had a real hard time. These ones, they commissioned the work, and they wanted a statue of David, alright? And so, they had this piece of marble that they had bought and paid for and brought forth, and they had two other of the most famous sculptures start on it and they both said the marble is a piece of junk, there's no way you can build a masterpiece with that piece of junk. Other ones looked at it, they wouldn't even touch it because the marble was so flawed; it's a true story. But Michelangelo, he took that imperfect lump of marble, he saw it, and even though they said it was too narrow, it was too poor a quality, and he couldn't work with it, Michelangelo saw it and said well the masterpiece is right in there. It's in there and I was thinking how the Lord says it's nowhere else but in there; it's right there in the imperfect. And I think that's why God's religious men, God help us to quit looking on the outward appearance. For we think somehow, some way that it has to look right, it has to be this to equate to His masterpiece. 33:10

You will never find that in here. God, He treasures the imperfect piece of marble that's too narrow, too hard, too soft; I don't know, but He says that's it. That's the one, and how could we not think like that? Abraham is going to be the father of you all; yeah, the guy in the idol shop. Oh, he's a perfect man of God. He's there just pumping out them idols. God's ways aren't our ways. God's choice is not man's choice, we started in Corinthians; He chose the base, the foolish, the weak, don't be afraid how He has you look; that'll always defeat you. The Apostle Paul said you follow me as I follow Christ. You don't try to be me, you don't want to be me, and I don't want to be you because that's not going to work. This is every one of us, and I thank the Lord we're camels. Yep, you got a camel, and it's the only camel that's going to make that trek. 34:44

I can't. it's not going to take two. You can't ride on mine, and I can't ride on yours, and that's it. And it's so sweet, there isn't a check list that each of us can do that's going to get us there. It's just one thing, the word of His grace. It's by faith, it's by trusting Him, it's by completely trusting Him. It's by leaning upon His breast, and saying Lord, I'm Your workmanship; You have to do this. You've told me, I cannot do anything, but You are the faithful God. I was reading and rejoicing, well in a minute we'll get there, but He's the one that even sanctifies you. 35:34

Somehow people think they got to go work on their holiness; no, you're already holy. He said you'd be holy, be holy because I made you holy. Don't try it, just go be it. Now grow and be thankful, and understand why I made you holy, why I made you like Me. To grow up fully righteous, but to grow up in that righteousness. That knowledge, that

understanding praise the Lord that truly I want to share it all with you. And what are you really understanding in all that, you understand what it is? It's love. It's love so immense, it's love so intense, it's love so great, it's love so beyond that He could not deny Himself. I have to have My goodly pearl. And we have the message of the goodly pearl. We have the feasting table; we have the table of I commend you to the word of His grace, we have that table. That's what we feast upon to transform from glory to glory to be that one like Him. It's incredible, isn't it? 36:59

Well, finally let's just read here who is the master builder by the way, and move over to First Thessalonians Chapter Five and verse twenty-three. And boy I'll tell you, you could just get really panicky. You mean, I got to go out and build something. I was just a guy that just worked at a desk these hands can't do it. Nope, they couldn't anyway. Aren't we thankful, here's the master, master, master builder. In First Thessalonians Chapter Five, verse twenty-three he said, and the very God of peace. Remember I told you about sanctified? The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; the very God of peace says that; isn't that something? Isn't that something that he has to tell you that God of peace sanctifies you? The legalist thinks, that no, it's God that judges, the God that is looking at you and says no, you have to do this, and you have to do that to be sanctified. He's the God of peace that sanctifies you. He looks at you and all He says, and all He sees is the blood; that's all the peace you're ever going to need. You're accepted, you're accepted in the Beloved, not just accepted in heaven, in the Beloved, in the much loved. Isn't that glorious? The very God of peace sanctify you holy, and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. I know you'd sit there and go wait a second, I got to preserve blameless. He said know the word of God, we are blameless, and by the way you have verse twenty-four. Faithful is He that calleth you, Who also will do it. 39:22

I love how those verses run because it's like it like okay and then I am your God and I will do it, and I'm faithful because I'm going to do it. Is your God the God of peace? You're sure now? And you have peace with God, right? And what He's saying is I'm your God of peace. Just rest, you've got the peace I've got. And the peace of God sanctifies you wholly. Those are the ones that just allow that to be; it just is what it is. Be Holy, amen? That's sanctified by the way; holy, peace, alright? 40:23

One last verse before we go. So, we know Whose building it is. Ephesians Chapter Two, verse nineteen through twenty- three. It says, now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but you're fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone. In the whom? In Him, in Whom all the building fitly framed together grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Whom? In Christ ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. That's just lovely, isn't it? And always remember that those stones when they were building that temple they were all cut perfectly before they were ever brought in. They were never touched once they were put in, they fit perfectly. You are His workmanship; you know where you fit right in a rib, amen?

And you're cut perfectly for it because the word of His grace does it all. Praise the Lord.
42:03