

SERMON 10

TEXT

“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” 1st Corinthians 3:12,13.

Now, the reader will see from the text that there are six different materials mentioned, which may be divided into two classes of superior and inferior, with which man might build upon the foundation already laid; and that the fire of the immortal Spirit should try every man’s work of what sort it is; whether it would withstand the fire, which consumes wood, hay, and stubble; and purifies the gold and silver, and tries the precious stones.

The difference of the materials, both of the latter and the former classes, showing to man the different lights which have been possessed by man in each of the three dispensations which the world has been divided into. The materials with which each has built; and the builders in erecting a temple for the Spirit of God, with the spirit of man to dwell in.

Now to return to the text. The different builders. In the first dispensation, they having the evil of the tree within them, those that were begotten and conceived of it were as wood, which the fire consumes, being of the seed of Cain, being the sons of men building with wood, in the first dispensation, whose bodies perished; but those that are only marred by the tares, which man sows among the wheat, are as the gold which, when tried, stands the fire, and the dross departs from the gold, and the tares are consumed – being of the seed of Seth – being the sons of God, of which seed Enoch’s body saw not corruption; he having built with gold in the mortal life.

“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s

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transgression (which was partaking of the impurity of the tree)
who is the figure of him that was to come” Romans 5:14.

In the second dispensation the material of the building was changed. The foundation again shown in that of Esau and Jacob – the building of Esau was as those that built with wood, which the fire consumes it being as hay.

Jacob being of the seed of those that were only marred by the tares, built with silver, which the fire purifies by separating the dross from it; the silver being figurative of the body of man, and of Jacob the father of the twelve tribes, they being the house of Jacob, which is to be as fire (Obadiah 18), from which came Moses, to whom God gave the law, and commanded him to offer up slain beasts whose entrails were washed, and the carcase: and with every offering he was to offer salt. *“With all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt”* Leviticus 2:13. Figurative of man’s body being washed and salted, by him presenting his body a living sacrifice unto God (Romans 12:1).

First, his body being washed by the word. *“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word”* Ephesians 5:26.

Second, being salted: *“For every one shall be salted with fire”* Mark 9:49. Which is being anointed with the Spirit, resting on him, doing the work, till it be put within him – being the baptism of fire (Matthew 3:11).

“But if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? (It being faith.) It is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men” Matthew 5:13.

“From his right hand went a fiery law for them” Deuteronomy 33:2. Which was to be a flame in the house of Joseph, by consuming the bodies of those that kept it not.

Elijah’s body saw not corruption, he having built under the law with silver, in the mortal life; and in this dispensation the priesthood rested in the tribe of Levi, to whom the children of Israel rendered tithes, as Levi rendered tithes in Abraham to Melchisedec.

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“And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, paid tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him” Hebrews 7:9,10 (Genesis 14:18-20).

In the third dispensation, the material of the building was changed: the foundation was again shown in that of Jesus and Judas. The building of Judas was as that of Esau, who built with hay, it being as stubble which the fire consumes; he being as Esau, who threatened to slay his brother Jacob, of whom it was said, *“By thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother”* Genesis 27:40.