

Marinating in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 3:5-15

You've got mail! A letter sent long ago to someone else, now by the power of the Spirit has been forwarded to you, so that you may grow in Jesus Christ.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Do you have any talent for a building craft or trade? What is it? If not, which would you most like to do and why?
- In this passage Paul uses two main metaphors for our development as disciples and as a church. What are they? How do these metaphors match? Differ?
- We emphasize that all we have is by God's grace - i.e., that we don't earn our salvation, but it comes as a gift. And yet in this passage Paul describes farmers receiving wages according to their labors (v. 8) and builders being rewarded according to the quality of their building work (v.14). So which is it - a gift, or a result of our effort? Or both, and if so, in what ways?
- Paul is clear that Jesus is the foundation of our lives as disciples and as a church (v. 11). What else do we sometimes mistakenly see as foundational? How are our lives shaped by having Jesus as the foundation?
- In v. 13 Paul refers to "the Day." What day? Is there any preview of the judging fire of the Day in this life? How so?
- Give examples of v. 12's greater (gold and silver) and lesser (hay and straw) ways of living as believers, and as a church.

Next week we'll focus on 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.