

INTRODUCTION – 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER THREE

This chapter is apportioned with three (3) sections in the bible that reveal Paul's messages to the Corinthians for our study, understanding, obedience, blessings and edification.

1. Sectarianism is Carnal: **1 Corinthians 3:1 – 4**
2. Watering, Working, Warning: **1 Corinthians 3:5 – 17**
3. Avoid Worldly Wisdom: **1 Corinthians 3:18 – 23)**

Clearly it portrays Paul as the spiritual father to the Church of Corinth with interest and passion to the faith of the Corinthian Believers, Christian teachings and doctrines, spiritual growth and maturity.

The third chapter of his first epistle focused first on his rebuke of sectarianism in the Church of Corinth that brewed carnality and immaturity among the Corinthians Believers. For the devil's weapons of envy, strife and divisions corrupted the Church and reduced them to "**mere men status**". Hence his inability to speak to them as matured people in the Christian faith.

Second, Paul's second chapter of his first epistle focused on the three main areas of watering, working and warning. Paul used his apostolic work in Corinth as an example where Ministers like Apollos, Aquila and Priscilla continued from where he ended. He went further to encourage the whole Church to do the Lord's work as required of them. He encouraged building on the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ using the right building materials unlike wrong building materials for an eternal reward.

He revealed that the Judgment Day was coming where all genuine and hypocritical and deceitful works would be brought to light and exposed in the judgment of Christ. Hence the need to be committed and faithful to calling, ministry and works of righteousness.

Thirdly, Paul contrasted worldly wisdom with God's wisdom and charged the Corinthians Believers to avoid the former but embrace the latter to give glory to God. By this charge, he revealed that carnality and immaturity of the Church makes members give glory to people unlike spiritual growth and maturity in the Christian faith where knowledge, understanding and obedience make the members give glory to God. For all things belong to us and we are Christ's and Christ is God's.

To enable readers and the Churches and Body of Christ as a whole understand the third chapter of Paul's epistle, I have done my best with the grace of God upon my life and ministry to explain verse by verse or combination of verses in bringing out the quality of Paul's messages to the Corinthians.

Like a weaned child just weaned from milk and drawn from the breasts, the word of God is taught precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little (**Isaiah 28:9 & 10**). Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes, He shall guide us unto all truths (**John 16:13**).

Connect to other writings of the Church and bible commentaries as the Holy Spirit enlightens your understanding because grace and truth emanated from our Lord Jesus Christ **(John 1:17)**. For this study, additional biblical information from the New King James Bible Commentary added fresh revelations to enhance understanding.

Study and know its relevance to your life first as a Christian before you apply it to other Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders. I trust God that you will be equipped with His knowledge and continuous belief in Christ's salvation work on the cross as tied to obedience, knowledge, spiritual wisdom, humility, spiritual growth and maturity. You are not alone because the Holy Spirit is Your Helper.

The focus here is your obedience to gain insight and understanding of Paul's messages unto spiritual growth and maturity in the Church. It is my prayer and hope that you shall be an instrument in the Lord's service to bring sound Christian teachings and practices to your local Church and Body of Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen. Hallelujah!

CARNALITY IN THE CHURCH; RESTRICTS THE WORDS OF THE PREACHER AND TEACHER

INSPIRATION

A Christian leader must know how to speak to specific Churches depending on their state of spirituality and maturity or immaturity. For carnality restricts the words of the Preacher or Teacher (**John 8:43**). For there is use of discretion within the confines of the word of God and convictions of the Holy Spirit. What is the benefit of using deep spiritual knowledge if the Church cannot comprehend and discern the revelations of God in them?

It is about the preacher and teacher and the congregation. It is about building a fatherly relationship with your children in the Lord and managing them in such a way that you bring up the best in them. Hence the need to be simple with your words but still preaching Christ to them and ensure understanding and obedience for spiritual growth and maturity. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:1 – And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

A Christian leader or Minister who is able to identify weaknesses and carnality, in the Church and reverse it is a very responsible person. Such was the mark of Apostle Paul's leadership to the Church in Corinth. In the beginning of his third chapter, he made it clear to them that he could not speak to them as spiritual people but as carnal. Here Paul described them further as babies in the Lord like when people believe in Jesus Christ afresh; not knowing their left from their right. That is they lacked discernment of righteous things from sinful things, good things from evil things.

By this statement, Paul realized that they ought to have been matured to a higher degree in their Christian faith and works and obedience. This was in line with the days that Paul spent in Corinth preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in which they believed and became Believers. Yet their infancy attitude to the gospel of Jesus Christ which they had believed to be members of the Church was questionable. In this truth about them, their obedience to the complete gospel of Jesus Christ was the shortcoming.

It means that Paul recognized a negative attitude among the Corinthian Believers that did not portray maturity in the Christian faith; even among Church leadership. In this state of the Church, Paul could not mention deep things in Christ, divine mysteries of the kingdom of God, to them because their level of hearing, believing and obedience was slow and as babes. They were not strong spiritually to take steps of faith in their Christian walk with God. Their low level of faith and maturity were clear indicators that they were not led by the Holy Spirit.

This was not what Paul expected from the Corinthians Church he had laboured and fed them with gospel truths when he left the Church under the care of Aquila and Priscilla. Earlier his message to them stated how he preached Christ to them in the power of the Holy Spirit and not in human wisdom to make them put their faith in God, and not the

wisdom of men. For he was determined to know anything about them but Christ crucified in their lives, ministries and Church. Besides, he was with them in weakness as show of humility to make the gospel of Jesus Christ practicable and meaningful and a blessing to them **(1 Corinthians 2:3 – 5)**. It means to say that Paul expected spiritual growth and maturity, and not carnality having invested in them as a spiritual father.

The bible says that we a leader must be diligent to know the state of his or her flocks and attend to them (herds) **(Proverbs 27:23)**. For diligence makes you go the extra mile to identify strengths and weaknesses of the Church and put proactive measures in place for collective benefit in the perfect will of God. Therefore the Holy Spirit makes us diligent to straighten crooked ways in lives, ministries and the Church through communication and practice of God's word in Christ. It does not mean to accept the prevailing bad situation but to adopt righteous measures to correct them.

This was Jesus' lamentation when a man from the crowd came to Jesus saying that His disciples could not cast out the demon possessed boy of epilepsy. Indeed Jesus knew that His messianic ministry was time bound and He would return to the Father. And so His question of how long He had to be with them physically was the expression to make disciples mature and make the people believe in Him as the Son of God, Messiah and the Christ before returning to the Father in heaven. Truly the problem with the disciples was the spirit of unbelief at work in them. **(Matthew 17:14 – 21)**. It means to say that whenever we magnify our problems above the power of God and His Christ, the spirit of unbelief is at work in us. And this is also a sign of carnality and immaturity.

What this teaches us is that we have to guard against immaturity in the Church. For immaturity of Christians can make teachings in the Church difficult and challenging. The slow spiritual growth and low Christian maturity levels is a limitation to the works of the Holy Spirit and therefore the works of Ministers and Church leaders. Repetitive sin and shortcomings will always result in emphasis on messages to rebuke and correct disobedience and wrongdoings when deeper Christian teachings could be taught to establish the obedient in their Christian faith.

Whenever we notice immature Christians in the Church, we have to pray for the Holy Spirit to work on the people concerned. We must continually use scriptures to tune their minds and make them focus on Christ. Looking at the numbers involved in today's Church, it must be the collective responsibility of all and not just the Church leaders and Ministers.

It means to have a strong leadership in place to enforce the word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. Church leadership must rebuke and straighten any crooked way in the Church like Apostle Paul.

New King James Bible Commentary: The carnal person is not the same as the "natural person" mentioned in **1 Corinthians 2:14. A carnal person is a spiritually immature Christian; a spiritually infant.**

PAUL'S RIGHTEOUS INTERVENTION THAT REBUKED THE LOW MATURITY LEVEL OF THE CORINTHIAN BELIEVERS WAS JUSTIFIED TO AWAKEN THEM TO

OBEDIENCE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AS A CHURCH. THE REBUKE WAS BORNE OF LOVE TO STRAIGHTEN CROOKED WAYS AND NOT HATRED TO DISGRACE THEM.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT PAUL'S RIGHTEOUS INVESTMENTS SHOULD HAVE RESULTED IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY AND NOT CARNALITY. HENCE HIS INABILITY TO COMMUNICATE DEEP SPIRITUAL TRUTHS TO THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE STILL INFANTS AND BABES IN THE LORD. THEREFORE DON'T BLAME MINISTERS FOR SLOW PROGRESS OF GROWTH UNTO MATURITY WHEN THEIR PRAYERS, TEACHINGS, INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, COUNSELS AND CARE AND REBUKES HAVE NOT SEEN A RADICAL TRANSFORMATION AND CHANGE YET IN THE CHURCHES. PRAY FOR THEM TO REMAIN IN GOD'S GRACE.

PRAYER

You are the God of Righteousness; Jehovah Tsikenu is Your name.

You have established the Church, O Lord Jesus Christ, through Your precious blood shed for us on the cross of Calvary.

Guide us with Your wisdom and power to identify weaknesses in the Church and correct them.

We pray that every immature Church shall be identified and helped to grow spiritually where understanding and obedience would be easy and a blessing.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE NUMBERS BUT THE QUALITY OF THE NUMBERS OF CHURCH POPULATION. AN INFANT, BABE AND IMMATURE CHURCH DOES NOT HAVE THE GRACE OF GOD TO BE FED WITH DEEP SPIRITUAL TRUTHS TO POSITION THEM STRATEGICALLY FOR USE BY GOD AND RECEIPT OF BLESSINGS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

DON'T BE FASCINATED ABOUT THE BIG AND INCREASING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH. THOUGH THEY CAN BE A SIGN OF GOD'S BLESSINGS WITH BIG TITHES AND OFFERINGS, THEIR SPIRITUAL STATE IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO GOD. OBSERVE AND CHECK THE SPIRITUAL AFRO BAROMETER READING TO ENSURE THAT QUANTITY CORRESPONDS TO QUALITY IN A HIGHER DEGREE. YES BEGIN TO WORK FOR QUALITY NOW WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST BECAUSE ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

NOTE CARNALITY IN THE CHURCH. IT RESTRICTS THE WORDS OF THE PREACHER AND TEACHER TO THE BASICS OF REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE CORINTHIANS IMMATURITY STATUS; REFERENCE TO PAST MINISTRY WORKS AND RIGHTEOUS INVESTMENTS

INSPIRATION

A Christian leader or Minister who works hard to build the Church on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ and is led by the Holy Spirit will not be held accountable for any lapses on the part of the members. Immaturity restricts the words of the Preacher or Teacher **(John 8:43)**. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:2 – I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

The exemplary leadership ability shown by Apostle Paul to the Corinthians could be referenced to past ministry works and efforts in establishing them in Christ. For he fed them with milk and not with meat. It means that their level of understanding was low and therefore Paul had to speak the gospel of Jesus Christ not just in simple terms but according to their level of faith. It means to say that the Corinthians did not have the mind of Christ fully since they entertained ways of this world in their minds and the Church.

Besides, Paul's leadership ability and management of the situation revealed how he began speaking to them plainly about the word of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit. It was a Church described and commended to be very rich in Christ and reminded of the faithfulness of God experienced greatly in Christ **(1 Corinthians 1:4 – 9)**. But they seemed lost in wonderland. They messed up and could not tolerate and accept the ministry words of Paul. In the words of Paul, the Corinthians could not bear with his ministry words; apostolic words. And this justified the gospel truth of feeding them with milk instead of meat because of immaturity level.

The third amazing revelation and message of Apostle Paul to the Corinthians was that they were still not ready to bear with the meaty food of his apostolic messages. For they were yet to break away from the mind of this world and have the mind of Christ. Not that Paul did not speak the word of God for spiritual growth unto maturity to them but they did not accept his words almost like unbelievers with an entrenched position.

These were ministry obstacles of Apostle Paul in his apostolic work with the Church of Corinth. Having heard and assessed the situation, he wrote in his first epistle to show his concern and change the situation. Indeed the Church was to be light of the Corinthian society but its strong influence affected the Believer's spiritual growth.

Even Jesus once upon a time in His messianic ministry spoke to the disciples in figurative language and parables because of their low level of understanding **(John 16:25 & 29)**.

The message of Apostle Paul creates awareness that not all people in the Church have the mind of Christ. They resist gospel truths and revelations spoken by the inspiration of

the Holy Spirit. Why because the spirit of the world is so much in them even as believers. These are the people who reply to meaty messages on holiness, evangelism and disciple making, righteousness, faithfulness and loyalty as hard sayings **(John 6:53 – 60)**. In the ministry encounter of Jesus early in ministry, Peter demonstrated leadership ability, on behalf of the other close disciples, when he confessed that only Jesus had true words of eternal life to be followed **(John 6:67 – 69)**.

I tell you the gospel truth that anytime the word of God is preached to the Church and they resist and disobey, it is a sign of immaturity with no spiritual growth. God lamented to the Israelites that He had fed and nourished them with spiritual food and physical food but they rebelled against Him. Even animals behaved wisely more than them because of recognition and loyalty **(Isaiah 1:2 & 3)**.

Therefore we need to pray for the Church daily to believe in the words and messages of the Ministers and Christian leaders. Jesus prayed for the disciples to believe and overcome the challenges of ministry **(Luke 22:31 & 32)**. Apostle Paul prayed for the Church of Colosse with joy to be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding when he found out about their faith in Christ **(Colossians 1:9)**.

The Hebrew writer rebuked a cross section of Believers who should have been teachers and matured after a time in their Christian faith but they were still babes and immature. But they had to be taught again the oracles and mysteries of God already made known to them. Therefore milky word of God was not the best for them but solid food to give them spiritual muscles in the Christian faith and journey. For those who partake of only milk are unskilled in the word of righteousness; immaturity because they struggle to obey the word of righteousness. Rather Believing Christians need solid food as the matured because they obey the word of righteousness. They are of age and have proven themselves to obey the word of righteousness and discern good from evil; reason of use **(Hebrews 5:12 – 14)**. It means to say that the Church must aspire to grow spiritually and eat solid food through obedience to God's word in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Again the Hebrew writer says that the Church should graduate from elementary discussion of foundation of dead and repentance, faith towards God, doctrine of baptisms, laying of hands, and resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment to perfection. It means to say that these foundational and milky teachings are necessary for a new Church or new Believing Christians **(Hebrews 6:1 – 4)**. However, eating meaty word of God as holiness, righteousness, evangelizing, intercessory prayers for Churches, Ministers, leaders and all people **(1 Timothy 2:1 – 4)**, Church unity and helps and supports in the Body of Christ. It means to say that the process of spiritual growth unto maturity and perfection must be evident of Christian teachings that awakens us to our deep fellowship with God and His Son Jesus Christ, works, gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit, ministries and Christian responsibilities in the Church and Body of Christ.

Keep praying in God's perfect will for the Church to grow spiritually unto maturity **(2 Peter 3:18)**. Keep preaching; Keep teaching.

New King James Bible Commentary: fed ... milk – Paul did not expect the Corinthians to be mature in Christ at the time of their conversion. By placing their faith in Christ, they had been justified. They had been united with Him and His death on the cross (**Romans 6:3 – 5**), and the Spirit of God had come to live in them (**1 Corinthians 2:12, Romans 8:9**). They were considered righteous before God because of Jesus' righteousness. Thus when Paul first established the Church at Corinth, he taught them as new converts, as those justified. Yet he expected them to grow in their faith – that is, become sanctified. The behaviour of the Christians in Corinth should have begun to line up with their righteous position in Christ.

APOSTLE PAUL'S EFFORTS TO CORRECT THE CORINTHIANS IMMATURE STATUS WAS REFERENCED TO PAST MINISTRY WORKS. THOUGH THEY SHOWED SIGNS OF LOW UNDERSTANDING AND IMMATUREITY, HE WAS STILL HOPEFUL TO CHANGE THEM AS EVIDENCED IN HIS EPISTLE TO THEM.

PRAYER

Dear God, we need your grace to bear fruit of gentleness and long-suffering as we pray, preach, teach and counsel Your Church to overcome the spirit of immaturity.

With the word of God and Holy Spirit, help us to grow and accept meaty food for the building of our Christian faith and relationship with You in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WHEN THE CHURCH DOES NOT ACCEPT MEATY FOOD OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, IT IS A SIGN OF IMMATUREITY. WHEN THE MINISTERS USE ONLY MILKY GOSPEL MESSAGES BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF AND UNACCEPTANCE, IT IS A SIGN OF IMMATUREITY. KEEP PRAYING; KEEP PREACHING; KEEP TEACHING BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR HELPER. NANA KWAKU DUODU

CARNALITY DEGRADES US IN CHRIST

INSPIRATION

In this world of rights and freedoms, people's actions and reactions are not the same. Some are evidentially good and some are also bad. In the days of the Corinthians, they had a strong culture of debates and oratory skills as the measurement of information and wisdom and this found its way into the Church negatively. Jesus said that he who sins is a slave to sin but whom the Son of God set's free is free indeed **(John 8:34)**. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:3 – For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Hence the carnality of the Corinthians observed in the Church of Corinth was of serious concern to Apostle Paul. Immaturity was mitigating against their spiritual growth unto maturity as well as his righteous investments in ministry.

As an intervention measure, he mentioned three critical areas that needed urgent attention and resolutions. They were filled with envy, strife and divisions. For once upon a time the Corinthians Believers were vibrant, united and peaceful until worldly practices entered the Church. He was therefore not happy with show of immaturity when they had the grace of God to be matured as Believing Christians.

Paul laid emphasis on envying which is having a strong desire and wish to have the same thing that belongs to another person or the hard work and reward of another person. What was the Corinthians envying one another for? They envied Paul's apostolic ministry even though he pleaded with them to have one mind, faith, confession and judgment of the Lord Jesus Christ. The same faith in Christ meant having the same Holy Spirit to be united by the Church but this was not the case because of some false brethren in their midst. Hence Paul's fears expressed explicitly when agitations in the Church against Paul's lateness in visiting the Corinthian Church which he described as a puff up spirit (pride) **(1 Corinthians 4:18 & 19)**. This was confirmed again in his second epistle in peril of false brethren in the Church and everywhere **(2 Corinthians 11:26i)**.

The second evil present in the Church of Corinth was strife which has to do with anger or bitter disagreement over fundamental issues; conflict. What was the Corinthians fighting for or arguing bitterly against the gospel of Jesus Christ? **(1 Corinthians 1:11)**.

The third evil present in the Church of Corinth was divisions and sectarianism that was breaking the unity, common faith and purpose in Christ **(1 Corinthians 1:10 & 12 & 13)**.

By this spiritual diagnosis, Paul identified three specific factors that contributed to the carnality in the Church. His mention of them in the third chapter of his first epistle to the Corinthians was purposed driven to let them see their level of immaturity. For they were

reduced to the status of “**mere men**”. This refers to unpolished men in the Church who speak degraded words and do degraded things to one another for selfish motives.

It teaches us to speak against the specific ills in the Church that affect spiritual growth and maturity when observed. For envy, strife and divisions are works of the flesh and not the things of the Spirit. They achieve the purposes of the devil other than the purposes of God. They are enemies of righteousness against same mind, confession and judgment in the Lord Jesus Christ, and regard to unity of faith and purpose in the Christian faith.

The bible says that Elihu expressed his belief in God to proclaim God’s goodness, holiness and justice. That God wants the best of all people and therefore exalts and establishes the righteous with kings but deposes and does not preserve the wicked. He tells them their work and sins whenever they disobey His word. Besides God gives people opportunity to repent of their sins, obey and serve Him. If they obey, they spend their days in prosperity and their years in pleasure but if they disobey they shall perish by the sword and die without knowledge (**Job 36:5 – 12**). Indeed, the God of Justice is at work against all forms of wickedness whenever mercy and repentance are ignored.

We cannot be reduced to mere men status like the children of Ephraim who were armed for battle but turned back in the day of battle. They did not obey the covenant of God and refused to walk in His law for they forgot the works of God and the wonders He showed them (**Psalms 78:9 – 11**). Clearly, they reduced themselves to mere men status in contrast to being warriors of God. Indeed the sin of disobedience to God reduces us to mere men status in life, ministry and the Church. Beware!

The mere men status is revealed in unrighteousness and loyalty with God but disloyalty to the standard of the world. The bible says that the prophecy against Babylon was the determined purpose of God to end her rule and dominion over the nations and against Jerusalem; His chosen city. Some of the main prophetic areas: The mighty men of Babylon have ceased fighting, They have remained in their strongholds; Their might has failed, They became like women; They have burned her dwelling places, The bars of her gate are broken (**Jeremiah 51:30**).

It is important to note that the New King James Bible Commentary states the Nabonidus text describing the fall of Babylon that Cyrus entered Babylon without a battle. By the time Cyrus reached Babylon, he had conquered all of Babylonia except the capital city cutting off road and supply routes.

Clearly the prophecy against Babylon was fulfilled when all her mighty warriors became women and therefore fitted into the description of “mere men status”. It is also important to note that the state of purity and use by God is tied to one’s obedience to His word and not self – obedience and self – righteousness. For before Babylon was destroyed by Cyrus, the bible described its imagery of being a golden cup in the hands of the LORD where the nations drank her sweet wine (**Jeremiah 51:7**).

It means to say with confidence in God’s righteous judgments that corruption can degrade and reduce you to “**mere men status**” even with righteous records of exploits

in the hand of God. That is why functioning effectively in the gifts of the Holy Spirit is not all with obedience to the Lord and leading of the Holy Spirit. It is complemented with bearing the fruit of the Spirit as Believing Christians **(Galatians 5:22 & 23)**.

This is important because exposure of weaknesses in the Church must provoke intercessory prayers and correctional measures. Be led by the Holy Spirit **(Romans 8:14)**.

Believe in the true words of Jesus that the devil comes to steal, kill and destroy but if you believe in Him, you shall have life and have it abundantly **(John 10:10)**. You shall not only inherit eternal life in belief but also be saved, nourished and healed in living His life **(Romans 5:10)**. Abundant life means a prosperous relationship with God as His children where prayers, communication, provisions, protection, preservation and instruction in righteousness, by the scriptures and Holy Spirit, lead to edification of the Church.

Hence carnality in the Church must always be discouraged through the encouragement of living the life of Christ. Habitual sins of envying, strife and divisions in the Church are a clear sign of carnality and immaturity irrespective of person involved whether Minister, Church leader, Christian leader, Church worker or a Believing Christian. For selfish interests and selfish motives are against the corporate interest and motives of the Church.

This means to do an introspection of yourself and role in the Church to make sure that your thoughts, words and works are serving the interests of Christ in God's perfect will.

New King James Bible Commentary: for you are still carnal – An immature Christian naturally lacks many Christian traits, but no one should expect this condition to last. Paul was surprised that the Corinthians had not yet grown into spiritual maturity or become able to distinguish between good and evil (see Hebrews 5:14).

PAUL'S STRONG MESSAGE OF REBUKE TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH WAS THAT WE DON'T BUILD CHRIST'S CHURCH WITH THE MATERIALS OF ENVY, STRIFE AND DIVISIONS. IT REDUCES AND DEGRADES US FROM THE RIGHTEOUS, HIGHER AND ABUNDANT CHRISTIAN LIFE TO MERE MEN STATUS OF CARNALITY AND IMMATURITY.

PRAYER

Help us O God to live by the gospel of Jesus Christ as spiritual people and make the Church a house of prayer and righteousness for all nations.

Help us O God to speak against specific ills identified in the Church with the motive to establish Your righteousness in Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Help us O God to correct the ills of envy, strife and divisions so that the Church will not be reduced to mere men status but people who understand and obey Christ's teachings for spiritual growth and maturity in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE CHURCH IS HOLY WITH RIGHTEOUS WORKS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. BUT IF WE PERMIT AND TOLERATE THE WORKS OF THE FLESH SUCH AS ENVY, STRIFE AND DIVISIONS, IT WILL REDUCE US TO CARNALITY AND SIN. BUT GOD HAS NOT CALLED US TO MERE MEN STATUS BUT A HIGHER AND ABUNDANT LIFE IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

DON'T GLORIFY THE MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS ABOVE GOD

INSPIRATION

The way and manner you praise people determine your love, recognition, acceptance and respect for them. But when they are exalted above God, you make them demigods or devils whose authority can thwart the plans and works of God in the Church.

Truly benefiting from the specific ministries of Ministers, Church leaders and Christian leaders is good and leads to close associations but we must never hide under them not to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and Head of the Church (**Ephesians 5:23, Colossians 1:18**). Let's study further Paul's rebuke of the sectarianism sin of the Corinthians Believers in the Church.

1 Corinthians 3:4 & 5 – For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

For Paul, carnality degrades our spiritual and human dignity. This is pervasive when our sense of belongingness is human and not God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This was Paul's higher charge against the Corinthians for show of carnality in the Church; immaturity. The divisions in the Church was tied to allegiance and loyalty of personalities of Paul and Apollos because of being beneficiaries of their ministries.

It is important to note that Apollos was a very influential Church leader in the Church of Corinth having many admirers and disciples like Paul. This revealed the seriousness of Paul's source of information from Chloe's household. Church history points out that Apollos was a good orator and could communicate effectively to the Church. But Paul believed and worked to enforce the mind and word of Christ to be united as His disciples: The new commandment to love one another and prove to the world that we are His disciples (**John 13:34 & 35**).

Therefore Paul reminded the Corinthians about their ministries and being Ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ. For the members of the Church as Believers were the people God gave to them through their respective ministries. By this truth, Paul agreed with the works and testimony of the early Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ that they God gave the increase in their obedience in ministry by adding to their number daily (**Acts 2:42 & 47, 5:14**).

Indeed it was a revelation of their true identity as Ministers of Christ and not to be worshiped and glorified like God. They were the creation of God and Ministers of Christ, and therefore they could not accept the praises and worship that belong to God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes Paul's words was the awareness creation that the Creator and the Messiah and the Christ is to be worshiped and not His creation.

This was a confirmation of Paul's apostolic ministry by the will of God and not the will of man **(1 Corinthians 1:1)**. It affirmed Paul's genuine apostolic ministry and the grace of God in Christ, their enrichment in everything evidenced in utterance and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ **(1 Corinthians 1:4 – 6)**.

This teaches us not to exalt Ministers and Church leaders over God and the Lord Jesus Christ. See them as instruments of God entrusted with the gospel of Jesus Christ to preach and save people and equip and perfect the Church **(Ephesians 4:11 – 16)**. If we focus on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit will lead us to confess Him in a united front. For divisions are of the devil especially when the members of the Church proudly proclaim their sense of personality belonging over other Ministers and Church leaders. Jesus was right to say that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also **(Matthew 6:21)**.

Yes the Church is to point people to Jesus Christ and not human personalities. Ministers, Church leaders and Christian leaders are not encourage personality divisions in the Church because sowing the seed of discord among the brethren is an abomination to God **(Proverbs 16:19b)**. If we see them as God's messengers in Christ by the Holy Spirit, there will be love and support and obedience to the complete gospel of Jesus Christ. For we are all one in Christ **(Galatians 3:28)**. Hallelujah.

Like Paul, let us invest prayers into the Church because God hears and answers the prayers of the righteous. It is our trusted spiritual weapon to stop and destroy every demonic attacks, as well as receive God's grace to obey His word in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus prayed for the unity of His disciples; that all may be one to reveal to the world that He is the Messenger of the Father **(John 17:21)**. Be wise.

New King James Bible Commentary: for you are still carnal – An immature Christian naturally lacks many Christian traits, but no one should expect this condition to last. Paul was surprised that the Corinthians had not yet grown into spiritual maturity or become able to distinguish between good and evil (see Hebrews 5:14).

PAUL REBUKED THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH FOR ALLOWING SECTARIANISM AND DIVISIONS TO WEAKEN THEIR STRENGTH OF UNITY IN CHRIST UNTO GOD. GOING FURTHER, HE REMINDED THEM THAT ALL MINISTERS WERE MESSENGERS OF CHRIST AND EVERY BELIEVING CHRISTIAN WAS BENEFICIARY OF THE MINISTRY OF A MINISTER. HAVE THE MIND OF PAUL TO FOSTER UNITY AND NOT THE CARNAL MIND UNTO DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH.

PRAYER

It is our prayer that the spirit of the world that results in divisions will not have a place in the Church.

Help us O God to be united in Christ by the Holy Spirit to prove Your salvation work and save people from the bondage of sin.

With Your Holy Spirit as Helper, let us uproot it from the Church by focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ rather than exalting Ministers and Church leaders.

Be our Teacher, Reminder, Counselor and Instructor in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

DON'T LET YOUR PRAYERS, PREACHING, TEACHINGS AND CHURCH WORK BE IN VAIN BECAUSE OF THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF SOME MEMBERS TO CREATE DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH. RISE UP ABOVE THE CHALLENGE AND EXALT CHRIST OVER THAT SITUATION AND THE STORM WILL BE STILLED IN THE NAME OF JESUS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

MINISTRY WORKS CAN MAKE YOU ATTRACTIVE AND THE TOAST OF MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH. BUT YOU ARE TO ENSURE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION TO RECEIVE ALL THE PRAISE AND GLORY. FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TESTIFIES OF JESUS AS SAVIOUR AND LORD AND GIVES GLORY TO GOD. YES WORK FOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WHO HAS BECOME THE AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

GOD GIVES THE INCREASE WHILST WE WORK IN MINISTRY

INSPIRATION

In life, you can determine your destiny by your productive life or not. Your chosen career is the determinant of your successful life by worldly standard and measurement. But in Christ, God gives the blessing and the increase. For we walk by faith; not by sight (**2 Corinthians 5:7**). Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:6 & 7 – I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. So, then he who plants is anything nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

But when it comes to ministry work of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is not just about hard work but the grace of God which results in increase. Therefore Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that every Minister and Christian leader must play his or her role in hard work and commitment and be mindful of the grace of God to give the increase.

Why the divisions and disagreements in the Church of Corinth when he as Paul planted and Apollo's watered? Why the comparison and rocking of shoulders when each of the two Ministers were servants of God? Both did great works to get the attention and recognition of the Corinthians and Christ because they pursued their ministries in the will of God. They were obedient to their heavenly calling and were led by the Holy Spirit. Paul planted or started the Church and Apollo's watered or continued from where Paul left.

Amazingly Paul and Apollos as Ministers of God did not fight and envied one another but the members of the Church seemed to allude their favourites with praises and loyalty. Therefore Paul made them aware that God gives the increase to their labours in His Vineyard. By this truth, he referred to the grace of God to be blessed and increase in knowledge, wisdom, prayer, preaching, teaching and manifestation of the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit; quantity and quality.

This teaches us that all Ministers of God play their roles in the Church and the grace of God gives the increase in every part of the Church. Indeed the prosperity of the Church is by the grace of God. That is why we pray, preach, teach and correct all ills with the gospel of Jesus Christ and leading of the Holy Spirit. Indeed the expansion of the Church is without challenges and therefore every Church leadership has a responsibility to manage righteously all situations whether good or bad.

Like Paul, let the Church be informed and trained to trust in God and not in personalities. Truly the anointing in the lives of the Ministers and Church leaders attract people to follow them. But they must be quick to turn the hearts and minds of the people to God and increase their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and wisdom and power of God as Paul did with the Corinthians (**1 Corinthians 2:4 & 5**). This is a solution to establishing a sound and healthy Church by the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

If the bible says that Jesus had to increase for John the Baptist to decrease, then the Church must experience Christ's increase above human personalities; even Ministers and Christian leaders **(John 3:30)**. Keep praying.

New King James Bible Commentary: Paul had planted or started the Church in Corinth, Apollos had watered it – had a significant ministry there after Paul left. But both men were only servants through whom God worked. The ones who plant and work have nothing to boast about because God gives the increase. Only God draws unbelievers to Himself.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS WAS THAT MINISTRY WORK IS NOT ABOUT PERSONALITY MINISTERS BUT GOD. THE CHURCH OF CORINTH WAS TO FOCUS ON GOD AND HIS WORD OF SALVATION TO HAVE A SENSE OF FAITH AND UNITY, AND NOT CONTENTIONS, STRIFE AND DIVISIONS. FOR SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY AND NUMERICAL GROWTH ARE TIED TO GOD'S BLESSINGS AND INCREASE.

PRAYER

We thank you Papa God for our lives, ministries and gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit in building Your Church as Christian leaders, Ministers, Church leaders and Believing Christians.

Help us to play our given roles to promote peace and order in the Church that would result in increase everywhere; physically and spiritually.

Increase our faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ to shape and mold Your Church as the Holy Spirit leads us. Help us to attain unity of faith everywhere in the Church by trusting in the wisdom and power of God other than human personalities.

When we see the anointing working for our good and blessings, let us remember the Giver of the anointing as You God and trust You always in Christ and by the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

IF GOD GIVES THE INCREASE IN THE CHURCH, LET US TRUST HIM IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT ALWAYS FOR OUR GOOD AND BLESSINGS TO ENSURE LOVE, UNITY, PEACE, AND AVERT ENVY, STRIFE AND DIVISIONS. NANA KWAKU DUODU

LOVE, RESPECT AND REVERE ALL MINISTERS, CHRISTIAN LEADERS AND BELIEVING CHRISTIANS

INSPIRATION

Societal perception is subject to culture, tradition, ambitions, achievements, riches, family name and lineage, position and influence and contributions. Even the bad and the corrupt have carved out names for themselves. Both would be rewarded for their deeds. In the Church, God appreciates and values the role plays by every member as His instrument of use (**Ephesians 2:10**). Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:8 – Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Apostle Paul in his quest to resolve the Corinthian crisis clearly stated in his epistle that God considers all Ministers the same irrespective of mandate as an Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. Yes all are the same because they fulfill His purposes in Christ by the Holy Spirit. Whether you plant a Church or started a Church from the scratch or another Minister came to continue it later in life and ministry, once they are in God's perfect will, they are to be accorded same recognition, respect and reverence as servants of God.

This timely information was necessary to change the mindset of the Church of Corinth about elevating one Minister over the other; the likes of belonging to Paul or Apollos.

Again Apostle Paul stated clearly that there is a sure reward for all Ministers of God who preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ to save people and equip His Church. And here God does not show partiality in the reward of His Ministers in all capacities. For your labour in the Lord determines your reward according to the gospel of Apostle Paul.

Now he spoke and wrote deep spiritual truths to the Corinthians to establish the Church on the foundation of our Lord Jesus Christ and not human personalities. For Jesus said that I will build My Church and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it (**Matthew 16:16 – 19**). It reveals that God's rewards for His servants are superior and satisfying and eternal unlike worldly rewards sometimes subject to flaws of buying or paying a superior or decision maker for your promotion, favouritism, partiality, manipulation, corruption of bribery and treating, human and demonic influences. The parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard tells it all (**Matthew 20:1 – 16**).

The bible says that there is a sure reward for the righteous unlike the wicked man who does a deceptive work (**Proverbs 11:18**). Again the bible says that **Cursed is the one who does the work of the Lord deceitfully (Jeremiah 48:10)**. Therefore the Apostle was confident to say that they were no longer a people who walked craftily and handled the word of God deceitfully now that they were in Christ and served as His Ministers in truth and conscience (**2 Corinthians 4:2**).

Why won't God reward His servants in Christ who are inspired and led by the Holy Spirit to obey His word and fulfill their ministries? Yes the bible commands us to be diligent in ministry. We have to present ourselves approved to God, as workers who do not need to be ashamed, but rightly dividing the word of truth **(2 Timothy 2:15)**.

When Peter on behalf of the twelve disciples asked Jesus about their rewards in leaving all to follow Him, His reply was that they will sit on twelve thrones judging the Israelites alongside He Jesus sitting on His glorious throne in heaven **(Matthew 19:27 & 28)**. Besides, all people who have left families, houses, friends, lands for His name sake shall receive a hundred fold and inherit eternal life **(Matthew 19:29)**.

From today, change your mindset about Ministers and Christian leaders thinking that titles makes them superior to others. Yes positions and titles are good and beneficial to ensure administrative hierarchy and order, and decision making in the Church like a typical family setting or institutional, organizational and company setting. Know that the founder of the Church and the helpers along the way would be rewarded based on their labours without partiality and favouritism and special privileges. When they exit this earth for eternity, other prepared and trained and loyal Ministers led by the Holy Spirit will continue from where they left off and they will also be rewarded in eternity by Jesus Christ.

Your Christian duty is to pray for the leader of your Church and other Ministers to fulfill their ministries, and not to exalt some above others. Your Christian duty is to help and support them and not to respect and favour only Ministers in highest or very high positions in the Church. Have the mind of Apostle Paul and not the corrupt minds of worldly people who only work to receive what they need in life, ministry and the Church. For their labour will determine the promised reward. Yes God is not unfaithful to forget your work and labour of love in which you have shown toward His name for ministering to the saints continually **(Hebrews 6:10)**.

New King James Bible Commentary: Paul had planted or started the Church in Corinth, Apollos had watered it – had a significant ministry there after Paul left. But both men were only servants through whom God worked. The ones who plant and work have nothing to boast about because God gives the increase. Only God draws unbelievers to Himself. It is our responsibility to do our job no matter the results, for God will reward us for our efforts, and quality of work (1 Corinthians 9:24 – 27).

THE MESSAGE OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS IS THAT GOD REWARDS COMMITMENT AND FAITHFULNESS. INSTEAD OF CREATING SECTARIANISM FROM PERSONALITY ALLEGIANCE AND LOYALTY IN THE CHURCH, WE SHOULD PRAY, HELP AND SUPPORT CHRISTIAN LEADERS, MINISTERS, CHURCH LEADERS AND CHURCH WORKERS TO FULFILL THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES AND QUALIFY FOR RECEIPT OF ETERNAL REWARDS IN HEAVEN.

PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, You have chosen people as Ministers, Christian leaders and Believing Christians to work in Your Vineyard.

Help every Church to have understanding and revelation of the call and ministry of Your servants as achieving the same righteous agenda in the mission and vision of Your Son Jesus Christ.

We pray for Christian leaders, Ministers and Church leaders and Church workers to be diligent in the Lord's work and fulfill their ministries with the hope of being rewarded eternally.

With Your Holy Spirit, we pray for grace to help and support them, and not undermine their work and influence through personality and position perceptions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

IT TAKES PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH WHO ARE FILLED AND LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HAVE UNDERSTANDING, REVELATION, AND ACCORD SAME LOVE, RESPECT, RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT TO MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS. FOR THEY ARE ALL SERVANTS OF GOD WHOSE LABOUR IN CHRIST WILL DETERMINE THE RECEIPT OF PROMISED REWARDS ETERNALLY. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

WHAT YOU DO IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD ATTRACTS HIS FAVOUR AND BLESSINGS UNLIKE THE SHOW OF SECTARIANISM AND IDENTITY CRISES BY A SECTION OF THE CHURCH. FOR A CHURCH LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD NOT WASTE TIME ON UNNECESSARY POWER STRUGGLES BUT FOCUS ON THE REASON OF THEIR GATHERING IN CHRIST TOWARDS GOD. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE FOUR (4) CARDINAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CHURCH: OUR DIVINE MANDATE

INSPIRATION

Knowing your assignment in life helps you to respond to call and duty. So it is with ministry work knowing that God has called us to labour in His Vineyard. For you are the battle ax of the LORD (**Jeremiah 51:20 – 23**).

1 Corinthians 3:9 – For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

1// YE ARE LABOURERS

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians telling and reminding them of the need to labour in love for the work of the ministry because there lies the blessing.

Ye are labourers was the defining news heard in their lives and ministries. They were called to serve and not to be served like the Lord Jesus Christ (**Matthew 20:28**). This was their divine mandate and mission to fulfill and not be exalting one Minister over the other.

It had the same measure of qualification and choice as Jesus called the disciples one by one (**Luke 6:12 – 16**). He sent them on missions to preach and save people in His name (**Luke 9:1 – 6, 10, 10:1 – 11, 17 – 20 & 21**). Indeed any Minister and his or her disciples who are very busy with missions will not have time for internal wrangling in the Church. For Jesus told the disciples that they did not choose Him but He chose and appointed them to go and bear fruits that are eternal (**John 15:16**).

Besides, Labourers are few compared to the masses in the Churches. For they are taken out of the Church to serve the Lord in various capacities and positions in all nations of the world. The bible says that Jesus saw the need for more labourers in the Vineyard after accomplishment of eternal salvation for humanity on the cross and resurrection from the dead, as well as ascension into heaven. Also He foresaw the need to pray to God as the LORD of the harvests to send forth labourers into the season of harvests because the time was right (**Matthew 9:35 – 38**). For He foresaw the baptism of the Holy Spirit, birth of the Church and the spontaneous results of people believing in Him as the Son of God, Saviour and the Christ (**Acts 2:1 – 4**).

LIKE THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS, WE NEED TO GRADUATE FROM BEING SERVED TO SERVING OTHER BELIEVING CHRISTIANS AND PEOPLE AS LABOURERS.

THE EARLIER WE HAVE THE MINDSET LIKE THE CORINTHIANS AS LABOURERS, THE BETTER IT IS FOR US TO MAKE OUR ETERNAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD.

2// YE ARE LABOURERS WITH GOD

The amazing news was that we are not alone but God is with us as labourers. To the Jews, they understood very well Jehovah Shammah, Ever Present God, who knows and understands their needs, challenges and problems and solutions.

To the Corinthians as Gentile Believers, this message was timely to assure them of God's presence with them in their labours. It means that the purpose of labouring to save people from hell and bring them into the kingdom of His Son Jesus Christ was very important to God. This explains why God shows so much interests in the Church and missions as a Co – Labourer. Yes for every righteous work, the Lord is our Helper as promised in the Great Commission to be with us always even to the end of the age **(Matthew 28:18 - 20)**.

It means to say that God releases heavenly and earthly resources such as angels to protect us from dangers and evils in order to achieve the eternal purposes of His salvation work in Christ. For the angels minister to heirs of salvation **(Hebrews 1:14)**.

This is also a reminder of the saying of Jesus that as the Father worked, He worked also. And the Son does nothing of Himself but through the Father **(John 5:17 & 19)**.

This teaches us to put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ always and trust God in our Christian mandate to change the world. Knowing that God is a Co – Labourer, we show commitment through hard work to achieve righteous and eternal results.

LIKE THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS, PAUL TELLS US THAT WE DON'T LABOUR ALONE BUT ARE CO – LABOURERS WITH GOD. FOR GOD HAS COMMANDED HIS ANGELS TO MINISTER TO THE CHURCH AS HEIRS OF SALVATION.

SINCE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE FATHER MAKING INTERCESSION FOR US, THEN THE CHURCH IS CO – LABOURERS WITH HIM. IF GOD ANSWERS THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LABOURERS IN HIS VINEYARD, THEN WE ARE CO – LABOURERS WITH GOD.

SINCE THE CHURCH HAS EXPERIENCED THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, IT IS RIGHTEOUS TO SAY THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A CO – LABOURER WITH US.

3// YE ARE GOD'S HUSBANDRY

Husbandry is the care, cultivation and breeding crops and animals as evidenced by Noah before, during and after the Great Flood. It involves proper management of human and other resources. It is about control and judicious use of resources.

Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that they are God's husbandry to care of His people as labourers. They were to help one another grow spiritually, be strong and committed and faithful unto maturity through prayer and the gospel of Jesus Christ by the leading of the Holy Spirit. They were now Christ's ambassadors reconciling the world to God through His Son Jesus Christ as labourers and co – labourers with God **(2 Corinthians 5:18 – 20)**.

It means to say that God's interests and stakes are high and He empowers us in Christ to do a good work like the Corinthians. We cannot disappoint and fail Him like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden by allowing the devil to use lies and deceit against us. Be prayerful, committed and vigilant.

The bible says that Solomon praised his bride the Shulamite woman as his garden of sister and spouse with the best of spring water, plants, spices, all types of perfumes, fountain of gardens, well of living waters and streams from Lebanon **(Song of Solomon 4:12 – 15)**. It is an imagery of a garden of love between the bridegroom and his bride, beloved and his fair one with preparation, communication and love affairs.

It is about disciple making, provisions, protection and preservation of souls won into the Church. God has given us all the resources we need in Christ to labour and bless the lives of people. We are God's husbandry and we use the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit to take care of God's property. The parable of the labourers **(Matthew 20:1 – 16)** and the parable of the two sons **(Matthew 21:28 – 32)** and the parable of the landowner **(Matthew 21:33 – 44)** are all pointers to the truth that we are God's husbandry in His Vineyard.

LIKE THE CORINTHIANS, GOD IS TELLING US THAT WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP IN CHRIST TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIS PEOPLE AS A GARDENER TAKES CARE OF A GARDEN OF FLOWERS.

4// YE ARE GOD'S BUILDING

Paul referred to the Corinthians as God's building in which He lives and does His righteous and eternal works in Christ. His Spirit and glory was in them. For through his apostolic ministry, God had built their lives and ministries to manifest His glory. Paul seems to have reminded them that they were His Church purchased by the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. It meant that they belonged to God and not the world, and therefore they were to obey the word of God and manifest His glory in the Church, and not be involved and associated with envying, strife and divisions.

It reminds us of the words of Jesus that whoever obeys His words is a wise man who built his house on a rock that stood firm against the wind, rain and flood waters. But foolish man is the one who built in the sand without any sure foundation in Christ and therefore his building could not withstand the vagaries of the weather **(Matthew 7:13 & 14)**.

Later in the Apostle Paul made it clear to the Corinthians that their bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit who is from God. And now their sense of belonging is God and not themselves **(1 Corinthians 6:19)**.

LIKE THE CORINTHIANS, HOLINESS IS A RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENT TO BE GOD'S BUILDING OF RESIDENCE AND USE. FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS IN ALL PEOPLE WITH FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

PRAYER

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God who created all things and reigns in heaven and earth.

Thank you for choosing us through Your Son Jesus Christ and anointed us with Your Holy Spirit to become Labourers in Your Vineyard.

We believe that You are with us in Christ as Co – Labourer in the Church and Vineyard.

Help us to be a good husbandry of your investments and resources and righteous and achieve eternal results in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Help us to avoid distractions of the devil and his demons and human agents through prayer, discernment and obedience to Your word.

Help us to be Your kind of holy building where our strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ would be manifestation of Your power and glory to change the world.

We trust You O God and ask for this grace in the name of Your Son Jesus. Amen.

BEING A MEMBER OF A CHURCH WITH A DIVINE CALL AND MANDATE IS THE GIFT OF GOD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. YOU ARE NEVER ALONE BECAUSE THE LORD'S PROMISE TO BE WITH US IS SURE AND CANNOT FAIL US. NANA KWAKU DUODU

IF WE ARE GOD'S HUSBANDRY; IF WE ARE GOD'S BUILDING, THEN OUR CO – LABOURER WHO IS GOD WORKS WITH US AND THROUGH US IN HIS SON JESUS CHRIST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ACHIEVE HIS DIVINE AND ETERNAL PURPOSES. IN THIS TRUTH, THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS ARE NO MATCH FOR US. FOR THE CHURCH STANDS UNITED STRONGER THAN IN FORMER TIMES BECAUSE OF GREATER INSIGHT TO GOSPEL TRUTHS AND REVELATIONS. NANA KWAKU DUODU

A WISE MASTER BUILDER BY THE GRACE OF GOD

INSPIRATION

Being diligent in ministry and Church work is to work hard in a determined purpose using righteous ways and means to achieve righteous results. It means to go the extra mile to do a job. It is about doing your part of the assigned work whilst others also do the same. Indeed diligence has the promise of receiving a sure reward (**Proverbs 21:5**). Building the Lord's Church by Apostle Paul in a consistent manner was also an act of diligence. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:10 – According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1// RECEIVED GRACE OF GOD

1 Corinthians 3:10a – According to the grace of God which is given unto me

Paul was mindful of the grace of God upon his life and apostolic ministry to build the Lord's Church. He indicated this truth in his greetings to the Church of Corinth before delivering the content of his epistle (**1 Corinthians 1:1 & 3**). For he had been anointed by the Holy Spirit in his call and ministry as an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. Truly, Paul was given grace to preach Christ and save the Corinthians. His greeting message also acknowledge the grace of God upon the Church of Corinth and peace with God because they believed in the Lord Jesus Christ to become His Church.

It was in this light that Paul acknowledged the received grace of God as an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ to minister to the Corinthians and build the Lord's Church. He was a servant of servants and man of humility who never took pride in self – works and self – righteousness but in the power of God. He believed in the anointing of the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel of salvation and not through human works and strength.

We learn also from Paul's message to the Church of Ephesus where he acknowledged the grace of God that made him worker harder with greater impact in the Gentile regions than the early Apostles. For this same grace of God was responsible for belief in Christ unto receipt of eternal life and also available for use in ministry works and the Church. In this gospel truth, the Church has become the workmanship of God performing works prepared for us before the foundations of the world (**Ephesians 2:8 – 10**). Therefore let no man be the devil against our Christian faith and works in the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is important to note that grace is given to people who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to practice the Christian faith righteously. For grace and truth emanated from Jesus Christ as written by John the Apostle (**John 1:17**). It is true that when you remove grace

from your Christian life, ministry and the Church, there is no longer truth and what remains is the grave which contains dead works, human centredness with its weaknesses of sin.

Therefore let us be diligent to maintain God's grace upon our lives, ministries and the Church by being led of the Holy Spirit to be wise master builders in Lord's Vineyard. For we were saved by grace, then this same grace of God must sustain us in our Christian lives and services.

THE MESSAGE OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS IS THAT GRACE OF GOD WAS GIVEN UNTO HIM TO BE A WISE MASTER BUILDER IN BUILDING THE LORD'S CHURCH AND THEREFORE THE CHURCH OF CORINTH. FOR HE KNEW THAT WHEN YOU REMOVE GRACE FROM OUR LIVES, MINISTRIES AND THE CHURCH, THERE IS NO LONGER TRUTH AND WHAT REMAINS IS THE GRAVE OF DEAD WORKS, HUMAN CENTREDNESS WITH ITS WEAKNESS OF SIN.

2// BE A WISE MASTERBUILDER

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10b – as a wise masterbuilder

Wise master builders don't use lies and deceit to build houses, companies, and more importantly people's lives and destinies because the end result is sorrowful and regrettable. Rather wise master builders use wisdom, truth, convictions, dreams, visions, and revelation to build people, marriages, families, houses, companies, institutions, organizations, governments and the Church for good and posterity. They make sure that the right human resource, material resource, financial resource and time resource are in place.

Wisdom plays a critical role in building our lives, ministries and the Church in the perfect will of God. For those who have wisdom as their inheritance and understanding will always be ahead of other people even in the Church and ministry work. For it is the principal thing **(Proverbs 4:7)**.

For the formation of the Church of Corinth was a result of his labour in the Lord that saved them from sin and brought them into the knowledge of the Son of God; the Lord Jesus Christ. This was the grace of God upon his life. This is why Paul was determined not to know anything about the Corinthians other than their faith in Christ and benefits of the cross to them **(1 Corinthians 2:2)**.

Clearly, Paul had distinguished himself as a labourer and also as a labourer with God. For depended on God's grace as a Believing Christian and also an Apostle of Jesus Christ called and anointed to minister mainly to the Gentiles. And his apostolic ministry had made the Church useful to God in service and ministry; God's husbandry and God's building. This explains why he went the synagogues and explained the message of salvation to them first and then went outside to preach Christ to Gentiles for their salvation too.

Learning from Paul's wise master building grace, we need to apply the wisdom of God to make Jesus Christ the centre of our preaching irrespective of the prevailing conditions and circumstances even beyond our control. We need to depend on God's grace and not human strength of oratory and persuasion ability but in the demonstration of the Spirit and power **(1 Corinthians 2:4)**. We need to preach in the anointing for our listeners to put their faith in God and not in human personalities, Church and Christian leaders in the Church **(1 Corinthians 1:11 – 13, 2:5)**. We must also remember why we have been called and anointed by God with His Holy Spirit. For we have been called to preach Christ and not to baptize people as Paul told the Corinthians **(1 Corinthians 1:17)**. Yes know the purpose of your calling and live in it accordingly without being distracted by other righteous Christian obligations, services and duties.

A WISE MASTER BUILDER IS A STRATEGIC PLANNER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL, MATERIAL AND TIME RESOURCES TO DO THE LORD'S WORK. IF THERE IS ONE THING NEEDED TO BE A WISE MASTER BUILDER, PAUL STATED CLEARLY TO THE CORINTHIANS THAT IT IS THE WISDOM OF GOD.

3// PIONEERS LAY THE FOUNDATION

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10c – I have laid the foundation

Paul referred to his apostolic ministry of beginning Churches in the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ to new people in new communities and environments. As a wise master builder, he built Churches, for new converts and new disciples, as a place of worship. Though there were Jewish synagogues, their teachings and mode of worship was based on the Old covenant of the Law of Moses and contrary to the Believers whose faith in the Lord Jesus Christ was on the basis of the new covenant of love, mercy, repentance and forgiveness.

Paul was not just a builder but a wise master builder who made sure that his apostolic ministry fitted into the plan and will of God in Christ. For he was led by the Holy Spirit and not subject to the whims and caprices of people. This was also a result of the grace of God upon his life and apostolic ministry. He declared confidently and boldly that he had laid the foundation of the Church. He had laboured as a missionary and suffered persecutions in the hands of the Jews in the Corinthian synagogue **(Acts 18:5 & 6)**, and the Gentile Corinthians **(Acts 18:7 & 8)**.

By this truth, he meant starting the Church of Corinth during his first missionary journey in which he met Aquila and Priscilla and shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with the Corinthians. He was also motivated by the truth that Aquila and Priscilla were also Believers who had come to Corinth from Italy, and tent makers like him **(Acts 18:1 – 3)**. Besides Paul's proven apostolic ministry in Corinth is buttressed by the truth that through the Lord's encouragement, he remained and taught the Corinthians for one year and six months and many of them became Believing Christians **(Acts 18:9 – 11)**. Indeed Paul endured persecutions from the unbelieving Jews to lay the foundation of the Church of Corinth **(Acts 18:12 – 17)**. The Church of Corinth grew numerically and

spiritually and at the time of his departure from Corinth to Antioch, the bible says that the foundation had been laid where the brethren saw him off peacefully **(Acts 18:18)**.

Learning from Paul's apostolic ministry, there is always a beginning to the works of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit. The calling of God and responses vary with people as evident in the life of Paul and the first apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ. For when Peter and the other eleven apostles were preaching Christ to save people in Jerusalem and its environs, Paul was a staunch persecutor of the Church arresting Believers. It was later on the road of Damascus that he was humbled by the Lord Jesus Christ who showed him mercy and enlisted him into the ministry as His apostle. The Lord decided to use in the Gentile nations and this made him the first to lay the foundation of the Churches there; including the Church of Corinth **(Acts chapter 9, Acts chapter 18)**.

So it is with the call into ministry at various times and responses in obedience to the Lord's work. Those who respond early and go to new and fertile lands and grounds become the pioneers to lay the foundation of the Churches as in specific countries and nations of the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe and other continents of the world.

It is important to note that the same Holy Spirit that worked effectively in the life and Peter's apostolic ministry to the Jews (circumcised) especially in Jerusalem, also worked in the life and ministry of Paul towards the Gentiles (uncircumcised) **(Galatians 2:8)**. Hence the laying of different foundations by different apostles in the perfect will of God to cover all areas with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is why the bible says that if the foundations are destroyed, what would the righteous do **(Psalms 11:3)**? Does it mean that there would not be anything to hold us tight in our Christian faith, ministry and the Church? But this is not true once God has set His eternal foundation in Christ through the Church, nothing can destroy it.

According to the New King James Bible Commentary, this passage of scripture was the taunt of the wicked against the righteous. Hence it is considered a false charge with no merit whatsoever.

This is also justified by the truth of Jesus that He would build His Church and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it. For He shall give the Church the keys of the Kingdom to bind and loose on earth and respected in heaven **(Matthew 16:16 – 19)**.

It means to say that the authority of Christ to build His Church is enforced in the perfect will of the Father. With Jesus' death on the cross, burial in the grave and resurrection from the dead, and ascension into heaven and distribution of gifts of the Holy Spirit through Holy Spirit baptism, the birth of the Church has taken place and is in full force and swing changing people, families, communities, nations, countries and Churches with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Hence the foundation of God stands and God knows those who belong to Him in Christ and have departed from sin **(2 Timothy 2:19)**.

Therefore we agree with Paul's message to the Church of Ephesus that our Christian faith, ministries and Churches have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. For we are one body in

Christ as a holy temple where our spiritual building is being built together as a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (**Ephesians 2:19 – 22**).

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH WAS THAT HE HAD LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FORMATION OF THE CHURCH AND GATHERING OF BELIEVING CHRISTIANS. HIS MINISTRY WORKS WERE KNOWN TO THEM AS A WISE MASTER BUILDER WHO DEPENDED ON THE GRACE OF GOD.

IT REVEALS ALSO THAT HE HAD LABOURED, AND LABOURED WITH GOD TO MAKE THE CHURCH STAND STRONG EVEN IN PERSECUTION TIMES. THEY WERE THEREFORE TO REMEMBER HIS FOUNDATIONAL WORKS IN CHRIST AS MISSIONARY AND A PIONEER TO UPHOLD THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND PRINCIPLES BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. FOR THERE WAS NO BACKSLIDING OR TURNING BACK FROM THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

4// OTHERS WILL WATER THE CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10d – and another buildeth thereon

Paul's emphasis was building the Church on the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ and another building on it all for the purpose of building Christ's Church. By this truth, he referred to having begun the Church through his apostolic ministry and others also worked on them as watering and nourishing in the likes of Aquila and Priscilla and Apollos. It means to say that Paul did not consider the Church his personal property but the Lord's Church as individual members of the Body of Christ.

In this truth, Paul was not envious of the ministry works of Apollos, Aquila and Priscilla and others because he considered them ministry partners who spoke the same things in Christ as him. This was in conformity of his early charge to the Corinthians to ensure unity of faith and purpose; no divisions but perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment (**1 Corinthians 1:10**).

Paul's concept of Church planting and Church policy was also about leaving it in the hands of capable men and women for effective management. He was a missionary for the Lord Jesus Christ and he travelled from one place to the other. Clearly other trained and proven Ministers and Church leaders had to continue from where he left off. That is why he charged Titus to appoint elders and deacons to manage the Church in Crete; in every city (**Titus 1:5**).

Therefore Paul's concept of Church management was that some people would continue from where the pioneers as missionaries ended, having completed their missionary work and laid the foundation. The bible says that the generous soul would be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself (**Proverbs 11:25**). Feeding and blessing the lives of people like the way a Shepherd leads the sheep to green pastures and still waters (**Psalms 23:2**), is a sign of generosity and that soul would be blessed by God and people.

Indeed it was a revelation that the Church had come to stay and outlive ministries and generations. For God in Christ was always preparing and raising a people of Ministers and Church leaders to labour in His Vineyard as pioneers or continue to build on the foundation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the pioneering ministries **(Ephesians 4:11 – 16)**.

It is important that we position ourselves strategically by preparing ourselves to do any good work given us in the Church. We must be spiritual and not carnal in our Christian faith. It is not always the case that we must be pioneers to begin the Lord's work as new Churches and Ministers. Sometimes the Lord wants us to continue the ministries and works of righteousness of certain ministers and Church leaders in some Churches.

Yes know that there is always a new generation of Ministers, Church leaders and Church workers and Believing Christians when the old exit into eternity or they move to other areas. It could even be work transfers such as promotions or fill in the gaps at other work institutions, organizations and companies where there is the need to play crucial roles. Like Paul told Timothy, be ready in season and out of season and do the work of the ministry **(2 Timothy 4:2)**. Prayerfully consider every assigned Christian role in the Church and be committed and faithful as God gives you grace. Be Holy Spirit led.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS WAS THAT THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY DOES NOT CENTRE ON ONE PERSON; EVEN THE FOUNDER, PIONEER AND LEADER. IT REVOLVES AROUND A TEAM OF MINISTERS, CHURCH LEADERS AND CHURCH WORKERS AND BELIEVING CHRISTIANS WHO TAKE OVER RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN THE OLD TEAM EXIT OR RETIRE. HENCE ONCE THE FOUNDATION IS LAID, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE ANOTHER PERSON OR PERSONS TO WATER THE MINISTRY AND CHURCH; CONTINUE RIGHTEOUSLY.

5// BE CAREFUL HOW YOU BUILD THE LORD'S CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10e – But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon

Again the genuineness of Paul's ministry by the will of God is vividly described in his righteous concern for the way other Ministers build on the foundation of our Lord Jesus Christ: But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

This was Paul's caution to the Corinthians to see the Church as the handiwork of God through His Son Jesus Christ. In this truth, he advocated for the Church to be built by genuine Ministers called by God and anointed by the Holy Spirit. It meant that he was against false ministers whose attitude and works were deceitful and not dependent on the grace of God. Therefore, I agree with Paul's statement of truth as a wise master builder. Are you also a wise master builder or has allowed enemies to manipulate you or bought the Church with money and gifts for self – manipulation or demonic manipulation?

Paul's personal integrity was revealed also in the work of the Lord and Church of Corinth. For he was not the kind that handled the word of God craftily and deceitfully **(2 Corinthians 4:2)**.

Truly, Paul was prophetic in his warning because generations and today's Church has recorded false ministers and proven his word right. This was a timely message and intervention to clean the Church of works of the flesh like envying, strife and divisions which had taken roots in the hearts and minds of the members **(1 Corinthians 1:11 – 13, 3:3)**.

It is also important to note that the giving warning by Paul suggested exposure of wrong doctrines and works on the foundation laid with punishment when eternal judgment is meted to them.

We will not stop praying for Ministers and Christian leaders and the Church because it serves as a check against manipulations and deviations from false ones. For we know by scripture and the Holy Spirit that there is no other name given by God to us that can save us other than the name of Jesus **(Acts 4:12)**.

PAUL'S WARNING TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH WAS THAT THEY WERE TO BE CAREFUL HOW THEY BUILT UPON THE RIGHTEOUS FOUNDATION IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THAT WAS FIRST DEMONSTRATED BY HIM IN HIS APOSTOLIC MINISTRY TO THEM. THEY WERE NOT TO ENTERTAIN AND CONNIVE AND ACCEPT FALSE APOSTLES AND FALSE TEACHERS TO DO THE LORD'S WORK CRAFTILY AND DECEITFULLY.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE WARNING GIVEN BY PAUL MEANT THE LORD'S JUDGMENT WHEN ACCOUNTABILITY OF ONE'S WORK IS DONE.

PRAYER

Our Lord and our God, we pray that you fill the Church with wise master builders whose lives, ministries and righteous works by the Holy Spirit build Your Church on the foundation of Your Son Jesus Christ and not on any worldly foundation.

Help us also that Your Holy Spirit will make us have a good attitude and mindset to build Your Church biblically in Thy perfect will. These we ask and believe it's given in the name of Jesus. Amen.

DON'T JUST BE A BUILDER BUT A WISE MASTER BUILDER OF THE CHURCH WITH A RIGHTEOUS AND PROVEN FOUNDATION ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BECAUSE GOD HAS GIVEN THE GRACE THROUGH HIS HOLY SPIRIT. DON'T ENTER INTO MINISTRY BECAUSE OF MONEY OR WORLDLY THINGS BUT BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED AND CHANGED BY GOD TO BUILD HIS CHURCH IN CHRIST WITH THE RIGHT SPIRIT AND ATTITUDE, AND AS PIONEER OR WATERER. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

I TELL YOU THE TRUTH THAT YOU CAN'T BUILD THE LORD'S CHURCH WITH DEMONS AND WITCHCRAFT AND OCCULT SPIRIT OR WORLDLY SPIRIT JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN HEAR THINGS IN THE REALMS OF THE SPIRIT. YOU CAN'T BUILD THE LORD'S CHURCH BECAUSE YOU ARE A GOOD COMMUNICATOR. WITHOUT THE CALL AND ANOINTING, YOUR FOUNDATION IS WRONG OR WEAK AND THE HOLINESS AND PURITY OF GOD WILL EXPOSE YOU. EVEN THE

DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS WILL EXPOSE YOU BECAUSE THEY WILL SEE YOU AS A PARTNER IN CRIME; HYPOCRITE. BE WARNED AND REPENT. NANA KWAKU DUODU

JESUS CHRIST; OUR FOUNDATION OF SALVATION AND CHURCH WORK

INSPIRATION

Foundation is the basis or groundwork for anything: the moral foundation of both society and religion, the natural or prepared ground or base on which some structure rests, the lowest division of a building or wall, usually of masonry and partly or wholly below the surface of the ground.

Foundations show the beginning of building edifices and events and happenings. God questioned Job about presence of the earth foundations when He founded it **(Job 38:4)**.

1 Corinthians 3:11 – For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

To the Church in Corinth and to every Believing Christian, Christian leader and Minister, Paul makes an emphatic statement of truth and revelation about being a wise master builder. He built his apostolic ministry on the foundation of the Son of God; the Lord Jesus Christ. For no other foundation such as religion and religious personalities equals our Lord Jesus Christ. This is because Jesus never sinned, but conquered death and the grave by rising in three days, and also ascended into heaven to live forever as King of kings and Lord of lords. And whoever repents and believes in Him is forgiven and given the gift of eternal life **(John 3:16)**.

This is what I call end of story and controversies in the Church and Christian faith. This is our foundational teaching that defines who is a Believing Christian or not. I tell you the truth that almost all the religions we know mention the name of God as the One they worship. However the bible states clearly there is only one foundation laid in the Church and that is our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore this is our mirror and spectacles to see and know who is of Christ or is an antichrist hiding in the Church or under the anointing of a Minister, Church leader, Christian leader and Believing Christian. Do you still believe that the already laid foundation is Jesus Christ? If yes then this qualifies you as Christian, Church worker, Church leader, Minister and Christian leader. As Paul told the Corinthians, we must have one voice and testimony about the Lord Jesus Christ **(1 Corinthians 1:10)**.

Yes Paul revealed that the foundation that the Church and all ministries and faith of every Believing Christian rests is already laid. That is the Lord Jesus Christ. It means to say that the work of eternal salvation is made complete in Christ and fully accepted by God as the way of salvation and righteousness. As a wise master builder, he was committed and never deviated from his faith in Christ first as a Believer and second as a preacher. For he believed always that Jesus Christ is the Chief cornerstone like other Apostles **(Psalms 118:22, Luke 20:17, Acts 4:11, 1 Peter 2:6 & 7)**.

On this truth and revelation, Paul assured the Church in Corinth of having the right foundation in place to build their lives and ministries by the leading of the Holy Spirit. It was also a message to them that all his epistle messages written alongside preaching assignments and talks were done in Christ. For he was determined not to know anything about them except the crucified Jesus in their lives. In other words, he desired that Christ be formed in them and nothing else **(1 Corinthians 2:2)**.

This was also why he wrote to the Corinthians confidently about his apostolic ministry not in enticing words or human persuasion of human wisdom but in the demonstration of the Spirit and power so that their faith would not be in wisdom of men but in the power of God **(1 Corinthians 2:4 & 5)**.

It means to say that the foundation of the Church with Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers is Jesus Christ and this is righteous to God. Once you believe, you become righteous to God. Once you preach and teach and counsel and instruct people and the Church to have and maintain their faith in Jesus Christ, you are righteous to God. Yes wise master builders in every country and nation of the world trust God's salvation work in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other foundation to trust because there is no salvation in any other named under heaven and given among men by which we must be saved; only Jesus Christ **(Acts 4:12)**. Keep believing.

Don't listen and accept the lies and deceit of the devil and his demons with contrary doctrines and religious philosophies. For the foundations of the righteous cannot be destroyed **(Psalms 11:3)**.

Indeed, other writings of Paul confirm Christ's supremacy and authority as Head of the Church. For the fullness of the Father dwells in Him **(Colossians 1:19, 2:9)**. It means to allow Jesus Christ to establish and perfect His Church in holiness and remove all forms of filthiness from it. Truly in the Church, Christ's supremacy must be recognized and authority enforced by scriptures and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Therefore I say confidently and boldly that the Church is not the property of anybody or the playground of witches and wizards, occult powers, demons and their master the devil. Neither is it a place for entertainment or business venture or jokes. It is clearly the house of God and place of prayer and worship. It is a place to build our Christian faith and ministries, and sharpen our gifts and talents for service in the Lord's vineyard **(Isaiah 56:7, Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46, Ephesians 5:23 – 27, Colossians 1:25 – 19)**.

The Great Commission entrusted to the Church has one voice and message: That believing only in Jesus Christ saves you from dying in your sins and going to hell. Believing in Jesus Christ gives you the gift and hope of eternal life to be with our Lord Jesus Christ in heaven. Believing in Jesus Christ makes you righteous and a child of God. Believing in Jesus Christ is by faith to all; Jews and Gentiles to receive the Holy Spirit **(Matthew 28:18 – 20, John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Galatians 2:20)**.

Choose to be blessed in the Church and Christian gatherings and meetings and not to be cursed. Your attitude and motives are clear determinants. Be wise to have faith in the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ whom the Holy Spirit testifies always. For no one

can say that Jesus be cursed or is false or a lie by the Spirit of God and no one can say that Jesus is Lord or testify of Jesus as Saviour and the Christ Lord except by the Holy Spirit **(1 Corinthians 12:3)**.

Choose to build the Church on the already laid foundation of Jesus Christ. He is the Mediator of the New Covenant in whose presence we are is described as coming to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to the innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and the Church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel **(Hebrews 12:22 – 24)**.

Besides we have been warned not to refuse Jesus Christ who came from heaven to speak to us and made for us the way of salvation and eternal life, because an everlasting punishment awaits the disobedient. And this will be more severe than the disobedient who rejected those who spoke the word of God on earth **(Hebrews 12:25)**. There is now no condemnation for people who believe in Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit **(Romans 8:1)**, but those who disbelieve are already condemned by God because they have not believed in His only begotten Son **(John 3:17 – 21)**. It's not an imposition but your decision determines whether you will be saved eternally or condemned in judgment to hell fire.

It is your best insurance and assurance in this life and eternity for we will be rewarded or punished for living, preaching, teaching and promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ or not as revealed to us and hitherto hidden before the foundations of the world **(1 Corinthians 2:6 – 8)**. Amen!

PAUL'S EMPHATIC MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF CORINTH AND TO ALL CHURCHES OF BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHURCH WORKERS, CHURCH LEADERS, MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS IS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE ALREADY LAID FOUNDATION OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH WHICH HAS BEEN PROVEN TO BE TRUE AND REWARDING ETERNALLY. FOR THIS GOSPEL TRUTH, THE HOLY SPIRIT TESTIFIES TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

SINCE THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE OR REPLACEMENT, WE HAVE TO HOLD TIGHT OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND PROMOTE IT FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE CHURCH AND SALVATION OF PEOPLE IN ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

PRAYER

Thank you O God for showing us the way of salvation in the belief of Your Son Jesus Christ whom the Holy Spirit testifies always.

We pray for grace to keep on believing because there is no other salvation given to us.

Help us to uphold this truth and revelation by living good Christian lives and performing righteous works in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Help us as the Church to proclaim and announce Jesus Christ to the world as commanded in the Great Commission.

Help us to reject demonic doctrines and philosophies, and overcome all challenges to our Christian faith in Jesus' name. Amen.

TRUTH REVEALED TO THE CHURCH THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE ALREADY LAID FOUNDATION THAT WE BUILD OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES, MINISTRIES AND CHURCH WORK. THE HOLY SPIRIT TESTIFIES AND WE TESTIFY WITH HIM AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHURCH WORKERS, CHURCH LEADERS, MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS. BE A WISE MASTER BUILDER. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

I TELL YOU THE TRUTH THAT ANY CHURCH THAT HAS CONTRARY BELIEF TO THE ALREADY LAID FOUNDATION IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE SPIRIT OF THE ANTICHRIST AT WORK. BE WARNED. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

TYPES OF BUILDING MATERIALS IN THE LORD'S CHURCH AND VINEYARD

INSPIRATION

Every project has its human resource, material resource, technological resource, financial resource and time resource to begin and complete it. So it is with the Church and Great Commission work that has been given to us to do as a Church of Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders **(Matthew 28:18 – 20)**. Truly time resource is very important in the sense that it determines your strength and wisdom to make your contributions within your lifespan on earth **(Ephesians 5:16, Colossians 4:5)**. Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:12 – Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble

Clearly the apostolic ministry of Paul had the foundation of our Lord Jesus Christ as a wise master builder. He went further to show the Corinthians that it is always proper and righteous to have the right building materials in the kingdom of God and have God's approval and reward.

This message was given after he had warned the Corinthians Believers to be careful how they did the Lord's work and built His Church. Two types of building materials were emphasized without a middle line option.

1// THE BEST SPIRITUAL BUILDING MATERIALS

The best building materials Paul mentioned was gold, silver and precious stones. These three valuable things were known to the Corinthians and they involved digging deep into the ground and going through the process of applying heat and water for sifting to have these quality materials.

Symbolically these three natural objects involved the acceptable type of quality work per one's contribution into the Church work and kingdom of God as good and beneficial in terms of ministry work, good Christian teachings and doctrines, righteous prayers and righteous works by the Holy Spirit.

The best of the building materials is the gold which symbolizes total and complete commitment and faithfulness to the Lord's work which brings out the best eternal results. It could be ministry works or usage of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as well as management of the Church righteously and effectively even through difficult, persecution and challenging times. Your prayers and other contributions in total commitment can be gold in the sight of the Lord. It is about those who gave their all for the sake of Christ in a

sacrificial manner. It is about absolute obedience to the cause of Christ even when it hurts. It is about going through the fire of testing and trials (refiner's fire), and overcome temptations to come forth as gold. As Paul told the Philippians, he pressed on towards the goal with hope to grasp it just as Christ Jesus has laid hold of him **(Philippians 3:12)**.

It is important to note that love for Christ would also determine whether all that we did was borne out of love or not. For words and works of love edify the Church and Body of Christ. Love has been described as the greatest because of its human and spiritual benefits Paul explained later to the Corinthians Believers **(1 Corinthians 13:1 – 3, 4 – 7, 8 – 10, 11 – 13)**.

Again Paul showed them that one's commitment to the Lord's work and contributions in the kingdom of God can fall under the category of silver; just below gold but reveals high level of purification which must be borne out of love too **(Malachi 3:2 & 3)**. Silver is also known for its resistance to corrosive and oxidant activities with water. Its quality is proven through a time of fire and the bible equates passing of the testing of the Lord to be refined and shaped as silver **(Psalms 66:10)**. For the word of the Lord are pure words like silver tried in a furnace of earth in a sevenfold manner **(Psalms 12:6)**.

In this truth, Paul was not the Judge of the Corinthian Believers to determine their type of reward whether gold or silver or precious stones. But it was important to encourage them and be committed and faithful in the Lord's work. This was an emphatic message to the Corinthians that maturity in the Church as a result of knowledge and understanding of deep spiritual truths makes commitment and faithfulness achievable to record high quality work that meets the standard of God **(1 Corinthians 3:8 – 11)**.

With the category of precious stones, these are the decorations and prizes in the completion of specific assignments for the Lord and the Church that signify the glory of God. It means to say that the beauty and glory of God in Christ are revealed when Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers apply the right divine and heavenly resources to the Church's numerical growth, spiritual growth and higher maturity status.

Some biblical expositions on precious stones reveal that Joab fought and won the battle against the Ammonites with the capture of Rabbah and its water supply. Their king's crown of a talent of gold and precious stones was put on David's head **(2 Samuel 12:26 – 30)**. It reveals that precious stones were added minerals to gold and silver associated with kings and royals of all kingdoms even beyond Israel.

Such was also the gifts presented to King Solomon from the Queen of Sheba from Ethiopia when she visited him in Jerusalem. It included minerals such as gold with precious stones **(1 Kings 10:10 & 11)**. The house of God, the Jerusalem temple was planned by King David with material resources also of precious stones besides other building materials **(1 Chronicles 29:2)**. Solomon is said to have decorated the house with precious stones for beauty **(2 Chronicles 3:6)** besides overlaying pure gold in the larger room **(2 Chronicles 3:5)**. The bible says also that King Hezekiah of Jerusalem

had wealth of gold, silver and precious stones besides storehouses of grain, wine and oil, and stalls of livestock **(2 Chronicles 32:27 & 28)**.

In John's vision of the eternal city of God, the New Jerusalem, the wall of the city had twelve foundations with the names of the twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ. The construction of the city wall was of jasper and the city was laid with pure gold like clear glass **(Revelations 22:14 – 18)**. The foundations of the wall of the city was adorned with all kinds of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysolite, the eleventh jacinth and the twelfth amethyst **(Revelations 21:19 & 20)**.

It means to say also that one's ability to edify the Church in these areas and raise up many spiritual children in the likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ fits you into the best category of gold, silver and precious stones. From the biblical findings, it is clear that the main and best precious mineral is gold and then also silver and these two treasures are usually decorated with these precious stones listed. It is important to note these precious stones were colourful to enhance its beauty and glittering as stated in the New King James Bible Commentary: Whilst the exact colour of some of the precious stones is uncertain, it is probable that jasper is colourless, sapphire is blue, chalcedony is green or greenish blue, emerald is bright green, sardonyx has layers of red and white, sardius is blood red, chrysolite is yellow, beryl is blue or blue green, topaz is golden, chrysolite is apple green, jacinth is blue or blue purple, and amethyst is purple or violet.

Jesus promised that there are treasures in heaven prepared for us who believe in Him as Saviour and Lord, and make our eternal contributions on earth **(Matthew 6:19 – 21)**. It is important to note that the birth and works of the Church after the baptism of the Holy Spirit has entered into the eternal blessings of God.

Is the Church a house of prayer, preaching, teaching, counseling, deliverance, helps and support and edification to one another? If we are obeying the leading of the Holy Spirit, we are in the will of God in Christ. For not anyone who calls Jesus Lord will inherit the kingdom of heaven but the one who does the will of His Father in heaven **(Matthew 7:21)**.

In truth when your Christian faith and works are by the gospel of Jesus Christ and leading of the Holy Spirit, God will place you in the category of gold, silver and precious stones. Be encouraged and motivated because God's judgement is superior to that of the world.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS WAS THAT THOSE WHOSE BUILDING MATERIALS TO CHRIST'S WORK AND CHURCH WORK ARE OF THE BEST QUALITY SUCH AS GOLD, SILVER AND PRECIOUS STONES SHALL BE COMMENDED AND REWARDED ACCORDINGLY.

HERE GOOD, BETTER, BEST IS NOT A CHOICE BUT MERGED TO PRODUCE THE BEST QUALITY WORK IN YOUR CHRISTIAN FAITH, CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND CHRISTIAN DUTIES.

2// THE WORST BUILDING MATERIALS IN THE CHURCH

This involved the category of wood, hay and straw which are consumables by fire easily. It means that they can be established but easily destroyed to ashes with no eternal benefits and blessings. It means to say that these poor quality building materials were far below the standard of gold, silver and precious stones.

Apostle Paul showed the Corinthians that they can be in the Church and yet produce soft and weak building materials that does not benefit the kingdom of God. By this statement, he awakened their minds and consciences to their presence in the Church and kind of contributions to the kingdom of God. They were to redirect their time, energies, strength and wisdom into commitment as well as being led by the Holy Spirit. The bad reports about them was not a good sign as using the right building materials for the Church. By this truth, Paul emphasized on good Christian teachings and doctrines against false teachings and doctrines and practices in the Church of Corinth. This was conviction of their consciences to make them have a paradigm shift towards the kingdom of God.

This was an emphatic message to the Corinthians that immaturity in the Church as a result of carnality was not to be entertained at all **(1 Corinthians 3:1 – 3, 4 – 9)**. For it does not make them understand deep spiritual truths with appropriate responses and obedience to be committed and faithful in Christian works, services and ministry.

It is a timely message to all people in the Church whose contributions are below the standard of gold, silver and precious stones. When one's work and contributions do not conform to scriptures and leading of the Holy Spirit, it has no eternal blessings and benefits and is earthly and temporal. When your works are worldly and full of selfish interests other than Christ, you are a failure in the kingdom of God. When one's works in the Church is absent of love, then wood, clay and hay are the building materials and clearly consumable by fire. It means that if your works does not meet the standard of the gospel of Jesus Christ, they would be judged to be of low quality with no eternal results.

Repent and amend your ways saith the Lord because you are part of the Church and Body of Christ to be blessed and not to miss your eternal blessings **(Jeremiah 7:3, 5, 26:13)**. But false Apostles, false Teachers and false Prophets with teachings and prophecies to put Believers, Church and all people in bondage would be judged as enemies of all righteousness **(2 Corinthians 11:4, 13, 2 Peter 2:1, 4 – 22)**.

The New King James Bible Commentary says that Paul had established the Church of Corinth on the foundation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Good, silver, precious stones, wood, hay and straw referred to the quality of work done by the Corinthians, and positively also to their motivations or the kind of doctrines they taught.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS WAS THAT CARNALITY LEADS TO IMMATURITY AND DOES NOT MAKE THEM SHOW COMMITMENT AND FAITHFULNESS TO WARRANT GOOD QUALITY WORK BUT NO OR LOW QUALITY WORK WITH NO ETERNAL RESULTS.

BAD, WORSE AND WORST IS NOT A CHOICE BUT MERGED TO REVEAL ONE'S POOR QUALITY WORK OF LACKADAISICAL ATTITUDE, SELF – INTERESTS AND SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD AND NOT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CHRISTIAN FAITH, CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND CHRISTIAN WORKS.

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, help us to work hard and be committed to our Christian duty and obligations on the foundation of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

For you have shown us through the ministry of Paul to the Church of Corinth that your perfect will is to place us in the category of gold, silver and precious stones.

Revive us O God through the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit so that our works with commitment will produce righteous results and eternal results to ensure high quality work in the Church.

We ask for this grace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

IF THE CHURCH IS BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THEN OUR THOUGHTS, WORDS AND WORKS IN SERVICE MUST BE IN CHRIST AND THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ATTAIN THE STATUS OF GOLD, SILVER OR PRECIOUS STONES AS ETERNAL REWARDS. YOU HAVE TO EARN IT IN GRACE AND NO OTHER MEANS. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT REVIVAL WIND BLOWS OVER OUR LIVES, MINISTRIES AND CHURCH, THERE MUST BE CHANGE OF MIND AND WORKS THAT REVEAL JESUS CHRIST TO PEOPLE WITH ETERNAL RESULTS AND ETERNAL BENEFITS. YES WE EXPECT TO SEE A PARADIGM SHIFT WHERE SELFISHNESS, WORLDLINESS AND LACK OF COMMITMENT ARE REPLACED BY CHRISTLIKENESS, SPIRITUALITY AND TOTAL COMMITMENT AND FAITHFULNESS AS HIGH QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHURCH WORK AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY HELP THE CHURCH TO UNDERSTAND DEEP SPIRITUAL TRUTHS THAT REFLECT IN COMMITMENT AND FAITHFULNESS TO GOD AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. FOR IT IS ACCOMPANIED WITH CHRISTIAN SERVICES, MINISTRY WORKS AND RIGHTEOUS WORKS THAT REVEAL HIGH QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MEETS GOD'S STANDARDS TO BE COMMENDED AND REWARDED WITH GOLD, SILVER AND PRECIOUS STONES IN ETERNITY. BUT CARNALITY AND IMMATURITY ARE ENEMIES TO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND CAN ONLY REFLECT

LOW QUALITY BUILDING MATERIALS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO GOD'S JUDGMENT AND DESTRUCTION. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

ALL THE RESOURCES WE NEED ARE IN THE MIND. **THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

USE YOUR RESOURCES WISELY AND SPEND QUALITY TIME ON DEVELOPING YOUR RESOURCES – **SUNDAY ADELAJA**
THE DAY SHALL DECLARE YOUR WORKS; YOUR REWARD

INSPIRATION

The quality and elasticity of everyone's work are determined to be good or bad, successful or failure with time or during assessment and evaluation. God's measuring rod is the gospel of Jesus Christ which shall judge us on the Day of Judgment (**John 3:20, 10:38, 14:11, Ephesians 5:13**).

The bible says that there is no creature hidden from God's sight but are naked and open to His eyes where we shall give account of our works (**Hebrews 4:13**). Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:13 – 15 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. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, 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.

With the gospel of Jesus Christ as the standard of measurement, the works of all Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders as well as all other people are determined to achieve eternal goals or not. Let's study further.

1.0// THE DAY AND FIRE SHALL DECLARE AND REVEAL YOUR WORKS

1 Corinthians 3:13 – 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.

Therefore Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that the day will declare their works. It meant that both secret and open works would be brought to light like the day's vision. You can call it the Rewards Day in heaven when our Lord Jesus Christ will reward us of our works and labours on earth. Indeed, what you hide from people in darkness are known to God like the brightness of the noon day sun.

Again Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that every man's work would be brought to light because it will be revealed by fire. Here Paul referred to the purity of the gospel of Jesus Christ as the word of God that examines and judges our thoughts, words and works by the Holy Spirit. For God's word is like fire (**Jeremiah 23:29**).

Besides God is a consuming fire (**Exodus 24:17, Deuteronomy 4:24, 9:3**). This fire of God is loaded in God's word and Spirit to examine and judge each man's work. It will test each man's work, character and obedience like the way the word of God tested Joseph in Egypt (**Psalms 105:19**) and Jesus in His humanity during the temptation period in the wilderness (**Luke 4:1 – 13**).

Just like the Corinthians, Paul is saying that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the standard of God's measurement for the Church with Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers as well as all people. It can be described as pure fire because the book of Jude describes it as our most holy faith; the purest and finest and glorious of all by the Holy Spirit (**Jude 1:20**).

New King James Bible Commentary: The Day speaks of the time when Christ will judge the merits of His servants' work (see 2 Corinthians 5:10), not whether they receive forgiveness of sin. Likewise fire does not refer to the "eternal fire" of damnation (see Revelations 20:10) but to the evaluation of believers' works (see Revelations 2:18, 19, 3:18, 22:12).

2.0// WHO IS REWARDED OR NOT IN ETERNITY?

The Church qualifies to be rewarded eternally for believing, practicing and doing the works of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit in easy and difficult times. For God is not partial but He is faithful to His word and promises. As Paul revealed, the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen (**2 Corinthians 1:20**).

This is about the Church of Believing Christians, Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders, and not unbelievers and sinners. Paul stated clearly to the Corinthians in His second epistle: **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10)**. By this truth it depicts a court appearance where the All Knowing Judge with our earthly records before Him rewards us accordingly for our obedience in ministry works, works of righteousness and faithfulness. It is important to note that good deeds or bad deeds will have its share of rewards in eternity before the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is also a reminder of the words of Jesus to the disciples that the Father judges no one because He has entrusted judgment to the Son (**John 5:22**). Hence it is righteous for Christ to judge His Church and reward us accordingly (**Ephesians 5:23b,c, Colossians 1:18**).

CHRIST'S POSITION AND AUTHORITY AS THE ETERNAL JUDGE TO REWARD HIS CHURCH IS UNDISPUTED BECAUSE HE IS THE SON OF GOD AND HEAD OF THE CHURCH.

2.1// THOSE WITH ENDURING ETERNAL WORKS; QUALITY WORKS

1 Corinthians 3:14 – If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that if any man's work built on the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ remains, he shall receive a reward. It means to say that when God's word passes through our works, it must clean and perfect them to bring out its glorious nature. It must be found to be righteous, good and eternal. Then comes the reward as promised at the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ the second time.

It is also a reminder of the words of Jesus to the disciples that He chose and appointed them to go and bear good fruits that would remain **(John 15:16)**. Yes God cannot forget your labour of love in ministering and still ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit to save people **(Hebrews 6:10)**.

The bible says that we shall all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ and account for things done in the body whether good or bad. Clearly there is a Judgment Day. How prepared are you? This must be good news for the Church who have the hope of receiving eternal rewards of our labours in Christ by the Holy Spirit. And this is the perfect will of God for His Church. For God promises to reward us accordingly because He is a faithful God and a Covenant Keeping God **(Psalms 58:11)**. Keep working for the Lord as in the parable of the Labourers for your reward is sure **(Matthew 20:1 – 16)**.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS WAS THAT THEY MUST BE COMMITTED AND FAITHFUL IN MINISTRY WORKS AS QUALITY WORKS THAT WOULD FIT INTO THE BEST CATEGORY OF GOLD, SILVER AND PRECIOUS STONES. FOR THE DAY AND FIRE SHALL DECLARE AND REVEAL THEIR WORKS RESPECTIVELY AS SUPERIOR AND MATURITY.

2.2// THOSE WITH WORKS BURNT BY THE FIRE; INFERIOR WORKS

1 Corinthians 3:15a – If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss:

People in the Church who exalt themselves over Christ to pursue personal and selfish agenda in the Church do not deserve any reward at the revelation of Jesus Christ a second time. For when their works go through the fire, they would be consumed because of inferior building materials, wood, hay and straw. The Day will declare their works and will suffer loss but themselves would be saved eternally.

It means to say that the loss of eternal rewards as denial of high placements and positions in heaven would hunt them in eternity. They will see the recognition, beauty and glory of the rewarded and regret for not showing commitment and diligence during their Christian days on earth. It will be sad for the affected but joy for the rewarded because of commitment and faithfulness.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS WAS THAT THOSE WHO ARE NOT COMMITTED AND FAITHFUL IN MINISTRY WORKS BECAUSE OF CARNALITY AND IMMATURITY WOULD FIT INTO THE INFERIOR CATEGORY OF WOOD,

STRAW AND HAY. FOR THE DAY AND FIRE SHALL DECLARE AND CONSUME THEIR WORKS AS RUBBISH RESPECTIVELY.

2.3// INFERIOR WORKS BUT SAVED ETERNALLY

1 Corinthians 3:15b – but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

However the mystery revealed here too is that they will be saved eternally. They will receive the gift of eternal life for believing in Jesus Christ. For them to be accepted in heaven means that they put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and lived His life. They will not be condemned to hell fire like unbelievers and sinners. But the fire of God and the Day would evaluate their contributions as Church workers, Church leaders, Ministers and Christian leaders and expose any show of lackadaisical attitude to their call and ministries. It would be confirmed that they were carnal, lazy and immature to grow spiritually unto maturity with all the God – given – opportunities that came their way.

This would be painful and regrettable in eternity. But they would be saved eternally with placement in heaven as long as they believed in Jesus as the Son of God and the Christ, Savior and Lord. This is however a consolation in the permissive will of God because His perfect will wants us to have the double eternal blessings of receiving the gift of eternal life and eternal rewards in heaven.

Therefore be mindful of Church services, Church programs, Church week days services like prayer meetings, preachings, bible studies, counseling sessions, evangelistic programs, crusades, visitations by other Ministers and Church leaders, testimonies, print and electronic preaching and teachings to mention some if not all.

New King James Bible Commentary: Fire proves the quality of gold but it consumes wood, hay and stubble. Some “good work” is actually self – centred aggrandizement. The true value of such “service” will become obvious to all in the Day of God’s judgment (see Revelations 3:17, 18).

PAUL’S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS WAS THAT THERE IS CONSOLATION FOR PEOPLE WHOSE MINISTRY WORKS ARE CONSUMED BY THE HOLY FIRE OF THE LORD AND DECLARED INFERIOR. FOR THE MERCY OF GOD WILL HAVE THEIR SOULS SAVED ETERNALLY. THIS IS A MYSTERY REVEALED BECAUSE GOD IS RIGHTEOUS AND NOT PARTIAL. IN TRUTH ALL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST SHALL BE SAVED ETERNALLY.

IT MEANS TO SAY ALSO THAT ONCE A PERSON MISSES THIS CONSOLATION, THEN BUTTRESSES THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD TO HAVE FOUND AND PROVEN PERSON GUILTY OF LIVING A HYPOCRITICAL LIFE ON EARTH. I TELL YOU THE TRUTH PRETENDERS AS HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCHES CLAIMING TO BE BELIEVING CHRISTIANS BUT ARE NOT, WILL BE CONDEMNED TO HELL FIRE EVEN WITH MINISTRY WORKS.

3.0// DON’T LOSE YOUR REWARD; BE DILIGENT IN SERVICE

In the writing of Apostle John's message to the elect lady and her children, he admonished them to be watchful and not lose their hard labours in Christ because God's perfect desire and will are for them to receive a full reward **(2 John 1:8)**.

The bible says that those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament and those who turn many to righteousness shall shine like the stars forever and forever **(Daniel 12:3)**. Yes let no one cheat or deny you of your reward **(Colossians 2:18)** because you deserve to eat and enjoy the fruit of your labour as God's promise to the righteous **(Isaiah 3:10)**.

DON'T LOSE YOUR ETERNAL REWARD. FOR THE GRACE OF GOD IS GIVEN TO THE CHURCH TO PLAY HER ROLE RIGHTEOUSLY IN THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD. FOCUS ON ROLE AND ASSIGNMENTS IN MINISTRY AND DON'T ENVY AT ALL BECAUSE OF HUMAN COMMENDATION AND REWARDS. SEEK HEAVENLY REWARDS FOR TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, GREATER HIS JUDGMENT. TRULY GOD IS FAITHFUL.

PRAYER

Thank you O God for teaching and reminding us of the reason why we are Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers.

Help us to live for you in Christ and work for the salvation of souls and establishment of people in the Christian faith.

May Your Holy Spirit lead us always in doing righteous works as our Christian mandate knowing that the Judgment Day will bring all our works into light; for the Day shall declare it as a Judge decides on cases at the law courts.

Help us O God with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to overcome every sinful and evil plans of the devil and his demons and human enemies that will make us lose our rewards.

In the name of Jesus, we declare Your grace to overcome and receive Your promised rewards. Amen.

KNOWING THAT GOD'S PERFECT WILL FOR HIS CHURCH IS TO MEET THE CRITERION OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN FAITH AND WORKS, WE LABOUR IN GRACE TO RECEIVE OUR FULL REWARDS. FOR THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD IS BETTER AND REWARDING THAN HIS PERMISSIVE WILL. NANA KWAKU DUODU

DON'T SETTLE FOR THE LESS WHEN GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE THE BEST. DON'T BE SATISFIED FOR BEING SAVED ALONE BUT BEING SAVED WITH MANY PEOPLE BECAUSE OF OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. YOU DESERVE FULL REWARD AND NOT HALF REWARD OR NO REWARD. NANA KWAKU DUODU

THE TRUE WORTH OF THE CHURCH IS NOT BY WORLDLY AND CARNAL AGGRANDIZEMENT BUT THE QUALITY OF ETERNAL WORKS IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

YOU ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD; INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

INSPIRATION

When divinity and humanity have something in common, it must be a blessing and not a curse. That is why the gospel of Jesus Christ is a blessing and not a curse. For in Christ, we have repented and received forgiveness of sins and are now children of God. Hallelujah. **(Proverbs 9:10)** Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:16 – Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

The Apostle Paul marveled at the Corinthians manner of life and works that were contrary to the works and results of the children of God who are led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Their self-willed lives, sometimes, suggested that they could do whatever pleased them with their minds and bodies. They behaved as if they were ignorant of the presence of God upon them. But Paul was quick to awaken them to the truth that they were the temple of God. It means to say that God's dwelling place and headquarters was in them.

Indeed Paul knew that a negatively impacted local Church also has a negative bearing on the Body of Christ. Hence Paul's righteous question to them about being aware of the presence of God dwells in the temple as much as in their lives. Their bodies were temple of God and they were to experience the power of God in their lives and the Church. The two go together and is inseparable. It means to say that Paul invoked the power and benefits of God's knowledge in Christ for them to come back to their senses.

We read

Hebrews 4:12 – The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

New King James Bible Commentary: The word of God is the measuring stick Christ will use at the judgment (see 2 Corinthians 5:10). God's message is alive and active, penetrating the innermost parts of a person. It distinguishes what is natural and what is spiritual, as well as the thoughts (reflections) and intents (insights) of a person. The word of God exposes the natural and spiritual motivations of a believer's heart (Hebrews 4:7, 3:8, 10, 12, 15, 8:10, 10:16, 22, 13:9).

For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am in their midst as Jesus told the disciples **(Matthew 18:20)**. This is why every Church gathering reveals the presence of the Lord because the Holy Spirit lives and manifests in all Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers.

It is a righteous reminder of the words of Jesus to the Pharisees who questioned Him about the coming of the kingdom of God. Jesus' reply was that the kingdom of God was within you **(Luke 17:21)**. That is the presence of God in us and at work in the midst of other kingdoms.

Now in Christ, the Holy Spirit resides in us permanently and signifies the presence of God. For those who are led by the Holy Spirit are the children of God **(Romans 8:14)**. Indeed the baptism of the Holy Spirit makes the presence of God manifest greatly in us as children of God and the Church **(Acts 2:1 – 4)**.

This was the kind of experience that Apostle Paul wanted for the Church of Corinth. He expected to see them and the Church manifest the power of God and in the name of Jesus in prayer and obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and thus reveal that they were the temple of God. They were carriers of His glory like the way the ark of the Lord carried the presence of God in Israel. For God lives in them and the Church permanently.

Know also that when Paul mentioned to the Church in Corinth that they were the temple of God, it meant that God has written His laws in their hearts through the new covenant in Christ promised generations ago; fulfillment of prophecy. Unlike the Old Covenant where the laws of God were written on tablets of stone, it is now put in our minds and written in our hearts for everlasting relationships **(Hebrews 8:7 – 12)**.

Again it reaffirms Apostle Paul's message to the Church in Corinth that we as the Church are the temple of God and in Christ we live, move and have our being **(Acts 17:28)**; being conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ **(Romans 8:29)**.

Keep praying and maintain your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. For the Father and Son loves us and make their home in us, and our fellowship is with the Father and Son as Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers **(John 14:23, 1 John 1:3)**. Therefore our local Churches must be filled with people who live holy lives in the righteousness of God. For our daily sanctification in God's word and Holy Spirit through obedience us acceptable to God. To affirm Paul's message to the Corinthians, we must ensure that our actions and works as contributions make our local Churches places for spiritual growth unto maturity, and also a growing Church numerically.

New King James Bible Commentary: Do you not know: This phrase, found in nine other places in 1 Corinthians 5:6; 6:2, 3, 9, 15, 16, 19; 9:13, 24 always introduces an indisputable statement.

Temple: There are two translated temple in the New Testament. One refers to the temple building and all its courts; the other refers to the Most holy place where no one but the High Priest could go. Paul uses the latter term to describe the

local Church in whom God dwells. Unlike **1 Corinthians 6:19** where the word temple refers to the individual believer, and **Ephesians 2:23**, where the word speaks of the Church universal, these verses speak of the local Church as God's temple. God takes very seriously our actions in the Church.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS IS THAT UNDER THE NEW COVENANT IN CHRIST, THE PRESENCE OF GOD WAS NOT ONLY IN THE TEMPLE AND SYNAGOGUES ALONE BUT IN THEM; LIVES IN THEIR BODIES. HENCE THE RIGHTEOUS REBUKE TO CONVICT AND AWAKEN THEM TO THE REALITY OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD EVIDENT IN THE RESIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THEM.

IN THIS TRUTH, PAUL REVEALED THAT GOD'S DELIGHT NOW IS THE RESIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ALL THOSE IN CHRIST BEYOND HUMAN EDIFICES; EVEN THE TEMPLE. BY THIS TRUTH THE HEADQUARTERS OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU AS JESUS SAID.

PRAYER

We are thankful and grateful to You O God for the work of eternal salvation that has made us holy in thy sight.

Whenever we forget ourselves, let Your Holy Spirit remind us of the word of God that we are temples of God and the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

Whenever we forget ourselves, Let Your Holy Spirit remind us of making our local Churches holy with righteous actions and works in Christ unto God.

We pray that Your convictions would enable us turn away from carnality of sin and worship You in spirit and truth to grow spiritually unto maturity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD HAS COME TO STAY IN US AND THE CHURCH PERMANENTLY FOR GOOD BECAUSE OF THE ATONING BLOOD OF JESUS. FOR HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION PAVED THE WAY FOR GOD'S PRESENCE TO ABIDE IN US FOREVER EVIDENCED IN THE RESIDENCE AND BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. FOR THE CHURCH CAN ONLY HAVE THE PRESENCE OF GOD IF ONLY BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHRISTIAN LEADERS AND MINISTERS ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT TO PERFORM RIGHTEOUS WORKS BUT HATE ALL FORMS OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS. NANA KWAKU DUODU

WHEN THE PRESENCE OF GOD DWELLS IN BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHRISTIAN LEADERS AND MINISTERS, WE CANNOT BUT SHOW FORTH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN WORD AND DEEDS. FOR OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH THE FATHER AND SON TO PROMOTE UNITY OF FAITH AND PURPOSE, AND ALSO SPIRITUAL GROWTH UNTO MATURITY. NANA KWAKU DUODU

THE LONGSUFFERING AND JUDGMENT OF GOD; INEVITABLE

INSPIRATION

When divinity and humanity have something in common, it must be a blessing and not a curse. That is why the gospel of Jesus Christ is a blessing and not a curse. For in Christ, we have repented and received forgiveness of sins and are now children of God. Hallelujah. Do you know that God is holier than His holy places? **(Psalms 68:35)** Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:17 – If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Apostle Paul continued his teaching, reawakening and warning to the Church of Corinth with passion and determination. Having mentioned that they were a special group of people now because of being the temple of God with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, he warned them about the consequences of disobedience and backsliding. If any man defile, desecrate, disrespect and corrupt the temple of God, God will also destroy him. Why because the temple of God is holy and we are the temple of God.

Truly the work of the cross by Jesus made them holy to God to receive His Holy Spirit. Indeed Paul emphasized on the name and nature of the Holy Spirit in them. That is to reveal Jesus Christ and make them conform to His image through belief in His death and resurrection, and obedience to His complete gospel of salvation known as the word of God.

It is important to know the context in which Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth. In their corrupt state per his early information and writings, he referred to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ who would judge all people and the things done in the flesh. This is a decreed prophecy and inevitable, and he had to warn them. By this truth, Paul advocated for holiness in their lives, ministries and the Church for God is longsuffering as well as the Great Judge.

You cannot destroy God's temple as a Believing Christian, Christian leader and Minister by your self – desires and personal decisions in the name of constitutional rights and liberties. This is a divine warning to same sex marriages in the Churches, acceptance of homosexuals and lesbians with their immoral practices. For God's word says that they will be judged and destroyed **(Romans 1:18 – 32)**. It means to say that if you pervert and reverse the holy and righteous establishments of God such as the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Churches, it is righteous for God to judge and punish you.

You cannot insult the Spirit of Grace, the Holy Spirit, and make nonsense the testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ which saved you from the grips of the devil, power of sin and death, and not be judged and condemned by God as an unbeliever and a sinner. You cannot introduce carnality and all forms of sinful habits and doctrines to corrupt the Churches, and not come under God's judgment. The end result is God's judgment and destruction of your soul in hell fire when your name is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life at the end of your life on earth **(Hebrews 9:27, Revelations 20:15)**.

The bible says the Spirit of God yearns in us jealously because He reveals and testifies of Jesus in your life, ministry and the Church **(James 4:5)**. He does not and cannot share your body and life, and the Churches with the devil or demons or mammon or worldly spirit. Conflict of interests are inevitable if another spirit or personality decides to take over your body and life either by permission or without permission.

Like Jesus said, you cannot love, serve and be loyal to God and the spirit of mammon at the same time **(Matthew 6:24, Luke 16:13)**. You better choose and maintain your faith in Jesus Christ before it is too late. When the Holy Spirit is at work in you, He helps and counsels you to make righteous decisions in your confused state and weaknesses. For He does not want to share you with anybody; Be Christlike.

IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH WORKS, THERE ARE ALWAYS CAUSE AND EFFECTS. LIKEWISE PAUL'S WARNING MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS IS THAT GOD SHALL DESTROY PEOPLE WHO DEFILE THEIR BODIES AND HIS CHURCH. TRULY, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS OF GOD ARE INEVITABLE.

IT MEANS TO SAY THAT THOSE WHO BACKSLIDE INTO SIN AND WORK TO PERVERT AND REVERSE THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS ESTABLISHMENTS OF GOD SUCH AS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE CHURCHES, WOULD BE PUNISHED. THEREFORE ANY SMALL SIGN OF CARNALITY MUST BE REPLACED WITH SPIRITUAL AWAKING THROUGH GOD'S WORD TO CONVICT AND REPENT.

SIGNS OF GOD'S WARNINGS AND JUDGMENT

God is good and through the Old Testament and New Testament has given us records and signs and power of His ability to judge all people irrespective of class and recognition in society and the nations. The bible says that when we sin consciously and willfully after we have received the truth of the knowledge of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, there is no longer sacrifice of sins for us. Only the severity of God's judgment and eternal suffering awaits the disobedient **(Hebrews 10:26 & 27)**.

Know also that under the Old Covenant of the Law, all those who rejected the Law of Moses were put to death on the account of two or three witnesses **(Hebrews 10:28)**. In this truth of God's word, the bible says that God's judgment will be severer, without mercy, for all people who have trampled underfoot His Son and made common and nonsense the blood of the covenant that sanctifies us, as well as insulted the Spirit of grace; the Holy Spirit. That is if you challenge and ridicule and make mockery and insult the work of the Holy Spirit in your own life and the lives and ministries of Believing

Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers and the Church, know that you are marked for eternal punishment with signs on this earth even before you die and go to hell (**Hebrews 10:28 & 29**). This is bible prophecy. Be warned and repent before it is too late.

Again, the bible warns us against abusing and corrupting the Lord's communion by eating it in sin and not in holiness. For they are pronounced guilty of the Lord's body and blood.

As a result, some are weak and sick, and even sleep; have died in sin (**1 Corinthians 11:26 – 34**). I want to emphasize the warning of the word of God that if even making the Lord's supper our food to fill our stomach and satisfy our hunger is a sin to God, then eating it in a corruptible and unworthy manner like sexually immoral people (oral sex, lesbian, homosexual, masturbator, clitoris massager, penis sucker, fornicator, adulterer), plus other sins (deceiver, liar, thief, armed robber, proud, arrogant, murderer, ritualist, occult, advocate and practitioner of another or strange religion of idol worship) is a serious sin to God because of insult and disrespect to the work of salvation by God through His Son Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit.

I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to be holy to God because the Holy Spirit is in you and you are God's temple. Overcome the challenges because God's divine power has given us everything that pertain to life and godliness (**2 Peter 1:3**). Be discerning and wise.

You don't come to Jesus in faith and later be lost to the world of sin, evil and wickedness in the likeness of Judas Iscariot (**John 17:12**). For He is the Good Shepherd (**John 10:11, 12 & 14**). Yeah Jesus still loves and cares. From today, never belittle or disregard or call anybody a small boy or small girl or low class in the Church who is born again and filled and led by the Holy Spirit. Yes he or she is God's instrument in Christ to show forth the glory of God (**Romans 8:19**). If the Holy Spirit is pleased with us, our ministry works and the Church, then we are blessed and cannot be cursed. A word to the wise is obedient to the word of God; the gospel of Jesus Christ.

New King James Bible Commentary: Destroy: Any person who disrupts and destroys the Church by divisions, malice and other harmful acts invites God's discipline (see 1 Corinthians 11:30 – 32).

THE ONE NATURE OF GOD THAT SEEMS TO TOLERATE SIN IS HIS LONGSUFFERING BUT HAS THE RIGHTEOUS INTENT TO GIVE US TIME TO REPENT OF OUR SINS AND AMEND OUR WAYS. BUT HIS NATURE OF JUSTICE WHERE JUDGMENT IS METED TO THE DISOBEDIENT AND REBELLION IS WHAT PAUL COMMUNICATED TO THE CORINTHIANS. FOR HE SHALL DESTROY ALL PEOPLE WHO MAKE A MESS OF THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH IS OUR BODIES AND THE CHURCHES.

[PRAYER](#)

We are thankful and grateful to You O God for the work of eternal salvation that has made us holy in thy sight.

Since we are the temple of God and the Holy Spirit lives in us jealously, help us to maintain our faith in Jesus Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit to be holy always.

Help us O God to overcome our daily struggles of the flesh by trusting in Your word so that we will not grieve the Holy Spirit but please Him in holiness and be blessed. We ask for Your help in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WHEN THE MOMENT OF TRUTH COMES, IT CHANGES PERCEPTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS. THIS IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH THAT ANNOUNCES TO THE CHURCH OF BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHRISTIAN LEADERS AND MINISTERS THAT WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS IN US JEALOUSLY. THE WORLD NEEDS TO KNOW THIS TRUTH THAT WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT PROVIDES, PROTECTS AND PRESERVES US IN CHRIST UNTO GOD. A WORD TO THE WISE IS OBEDIENT TO THE WORD OF GOD; THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

TELL THEM THE TRUTH THAT GOD IS LONGSUFFERING AND ONLY BEARS WITH PEOPLES WEAKNESSES OF SIN TO REPENT AT THE PREACHING AND HEARING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. TELL THEM THE TRUTH THAT THE REASON WHY GOD HAS NOT KILLED YOU DESPITE YOUR WEAKNESSES EVEN IN THE CHURCH IS BECAUSE HE IS PATIENT WITH YOU TO BE HOLY AS A BELIEVING CHRISTIAN, CHRISTIAN AND MINISTER FILLED AND LED AND CONVICTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. BUT BE MINDFUL ALSO THAT HE IS THE GREAT JUDGE OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD; OVERCOME WITH GOD'S WISDOM

INSPIRATION

The greatest deceit of all time is when you deceive yourself and not being deceived by people or enemies. To live in deceit is to believe the lie that you can do whatever you like with your life and body because it is your right and intelligently balance your relationship with God and His Son Jesus Christ with the world (**Proverbs 11:1**). Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:18 & 19 – Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

As Paul was ending the third chapter of his epistle to the Corinthians, he focused on the lie and deceitfulness of worldly wisdom against the wisdom of God through the foolishness of Christ's crucifixion that has saved them eternally.

The message of Apostle Paul to the Corinthians was that they must be careful not to live in the lie of being above the gospel of Jesus Christ as the word of God for holy living and performance of righteous works by the Holy Spirit. It means that one could deceive himself by believing in the lie instead of the good. This is called worldly wisdom according to the gospel of Paul.

To the Corinthians, Paul counseled them that it is better to become a fool in order to be wise than become wise in their own eyes and become a fool. What he meant was that it is better to accept your weaknesses and become wise in God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is better to surrender your will to God in Christ and enjoy the leading of the Holy Spirit than to be self-willed and headstrong and put your trust in the wisdom of this world.

The big reason is that the wisdom of this world that we cherish so much is foolishness to God. By this truth, Paul revealed to the Corinthians that the things of this world that we love and fight over them and covet are hated by God if they are contrary to the gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. This was the bitter pill of truth that Paul made the Corinthians swallow to remove the seed of worldliness from them.

Earlier Paul had written to the Corinthians that the gospel of Jesus Christ is foolishness to those who are perishing but to those who believe it is the power of God unto salvation (**1 Corinthians 1:18**). Paul emphasized on the same message here that the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.

Again, Paul warned the Corinthians not to put their trust in the wisdom of this world because it is deceitful. For God catches the crafty in their own craftiness **(Job 5:13)**. Human smartness and intelligence is no match for the wisdom of God as revealed in God's chastisement of Job even though he was His favourite and full of integrity. For with God, obedience to His word is preferred to worldly wisdom and lifestyles.

The bible commands us not to love the world and the things in them. If we love the world, the love of the Father is not in us. Specifically the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life are hated by God **(1 John 2:15 – 17)**. The wisdom of this world is passing away with no eternal benefits to us. It keeps us away from the presence of God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Again the bible speaks directly to us in

Proverbs 3:7 – Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Clearly those who are wise by their beliefs, perceptions and love for this world do not fear God to depart from evil. For they love them more than the word of God.

An example is the rich young ruler who could not follow Jesus as a disciple because he could not sell all his riches as instructed. For his heart was glued to his riches to deny him eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ **(Matthew 19:16 – 22)**. Yes riches are good but can never replace eternal life received by faith in Jesus Christ. Be wise in God as a Believing Christian, Christian leader and Minister.

These are the true words of Jesus as written in

John 12:25 – He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

For those who live their lives are carnal and disobedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ therefore they shall lose it. However those who hate their lives to be foolish in the eyes of people because of obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ shall gain life; eternal life.

Indeed it is of the same spiritual principle that Paul wrote to the Corinthians. It is better to be foolish and gain the wisdom of God than to be wise and be a fool to God. For the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ has no substitute and it is irreplaceable. It requires humility and obedience to be wise in God. Also it requires disobedience to be wise in yourself against the wisdom of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit.

New King James Bible Commentary: The wisdom of this world does not coincide with God's wisdom, the foolishness of Christ's crucified (see 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 25).

New King James Bible Commentary: Paul quotes from Job 5:23, Psalms 94:11 to urge the members of the Corinthians Church to humble themselves.

PRAYER

Help us O God not to be wise in our eyes through human wisdom and intelligence but trust in Your salvation through Jesus Christ.

For in Christ lies the eternal blessings and eternal life. May the Holy Spirit lead and guide us always in this gospel truth always in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE DANGER IN THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD IS THE FALSE IMPRESSION AND FALSE SECURITY OF OUR LIVES AND DESTINIES. IT KEEPS US AWAY FROM THE SALVATION PLAN OF GOD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. BUT TRUSTING GOD'S WISDOM IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SURE SECURITY IN THIS LIFE AND RECEIPT OF ETERNAL LIFE. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

CONFIDENCE IN WORLDLY WISDOM SEEMS TO HAVE A FALSE IMPRESSION OF INITIAL SUCCESS BY USERS. BUT THE ARM OF THE FLESH WILL FAIL YOU WHENEVER THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS PREACHED FOR THE SALVATION OF PEOPLE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. LIKE THE CORINTHIANS, WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE WISDOM OF GOD IN CHRIST TO PROVE CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION. FOR WORLDLY WISDOM MUST BE AVOIDED BECAUSE IT CAN NEVER BE A SUBSTITUTE TO GOD'S WISDOM IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. THIS IS THE WAY TO GO SAITH THE LORD OF HOST; JEHOVAH SABBAOTH. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

THE ALL KNOWING GOD AND VAIN THOUGHTS

INSPIRATION

One of the major distinctions between God and us is divinity expressed in His All Knowing nature. This must be known by all to instill dependence on God and clothed in humility as Believing Christians, Christian leaders and Ministers filled and led by the Holy Spirit (**Jeremiah 17:10**). Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:20 – And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

Apostle Paul's message to the Corinthians as he concluded chapter three was to remind them of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ as All Knowing. Not only does God catches the wise in their craftiness but also knows the futile thoughts of the wise with no profit to the Church and kingdom of God.

In this context, he focused on God's ability to know of the thoughts of proud and arrogant people who are wise in their own eyes. God knows that the thoughts of the wise that they are in vain and would come to nothing. For the thoughts of the wise are evil and not righteous in God's sight (**Proverbs 12:5**).

By this truth Paul notified and emphasized on God's word written concerning the lives and works of people who depend and use worldly wisdom to achieve things other than dependence on God. For the thoughts of people define who they are because it is the window to the heart; the seat of belief or unbelief. Since the thoughts of a person determine who they say and do, the thoughts of the self – wise reflect on the wisdom of this world contrary to the wisdom of God. Yes the Lord hates vain thoughts but delights in those who love and mediate on His word (**Psalms 119:113**).

Paul's righteous concern was also necessitated by the fact that the thoughts of the righteous does not help in ministry work at all. Therefore the people who resisted and fought against his apostolic ministry and works evident in the Church of Corinth were in this category. Truly when people in the Church do not have the mind of Christ (**1 Corinthians 2:16**), they become enemies to the cross of Jesus.

Jesus also had this righteous concern hence His battle with the Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes whose evil thoughts reflected in the traps they set against Him in His messianic ministry (**Matthew 22:15 – 22, 23 – 33, 34 – 45**). The bible says that Jesus overcame all the traps set for Him because He knew their evil thoughts. And no one dared questioned Him having exposed all their evil minds and works (**Matthew 22:46**).

It means to trust in the wisdom of God and not the wisdom of this world. For we build God's Church using His wisdom in truth of scripture and the Holy Spirit and not the wisdom of this world through lies and deceit. Like Paul to the Corinthians, learn to pray and do His will through total dependence on the gospel of Jesus Christ and leading of the Holy Spirit. For the thoughts of the self – wise are vain and a liability to the spiritual growth and maturity of the Church in the kingdom of God.

New King James Bible Commentary: Paul quotes from Job 5:23, Psalms 94:11 to urge the members of the Corinthians Church to humble themselves.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS WAS THAT THEY HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO DISCERN AND KNOW BETWEEN WORLDLY THOUGHTS WHICH TRANSLATE INTO EVIL WORDS AND WORKS, AND RIGHTEOUS THOUGHTS WHICH TRANSLATE INTO RIGHTEOUS WORDS AND WORKS. HENCE HIS RIGHTEOUS COUNSEL WAS FOR THEM TO CHOOSE THE WISDOM OF GOD WITH RIGHTEOUS THOUGHTS AND MEDITATION OF HIS WORD IN CHRIST.

NOTE THAT NO MATTER HOW WORLDLY PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES LOOK GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL, THEY ARE FOOLISHNESS TO GOD. ONLY BELIEF IN CHRIST AND LIVING HIS LIFE IS CONSIDERED THE WISDOM OF GOD THOUGH FOOLISHNESS TO THE WORLD. HENCE MEDITATE ON THE WISDOM OF GOD TO HAVE RIGHTEOUS THOUGHTS ALWAYS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH UNTO MATURITY.

PRAYER

Our All Knowing God, help us as a Church to be like – minded people with righteous thoughts and mind of Christ to build Your Church.

May we be guided by the gospel of Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit in order not to fall into the sin of the Corinthians with some having vain thoughts from self – wisdom. We ask for this grace and help in the name of Jesus. Amen.

KNOW THAT GOD CAN USE AND DEPEND ON RIGHTEOUS MINDS AND THOUGHTS IN CHRIST TO BUILD HIS CHURCH OTHER THAN EVIL AND WICKED MINDS AND THOUGHTS. FOR THE LATTER'S FUTILITY IS REVEALED BY GOD ALWAYS. BE WISE. NANA KWAKU DUODU

ALL THINGS ARE YOURS; GLORY NOT IN MEN BUT GOD

INSPIRATION

One of the beautiful and sweetest things to know is your accrued blessings and benefits. This is good motivation to make you focus on the right things in life. When parents tell their children that every property they have belong to them, it is a message that their habits and character must be good and acceptable in the family and society. They must also prepare themselves to take over from them in the future. In most cases, the ageing parents give some responsibilities for the children to manage or make them take over completely in times sickness and loss of physical strength.

Likewise, God prepares His Church to assume the roles and responsibilities prepared for them in eternity. The Church has then become the training grounds to prepare His children as Believing Christians to be equipped with ministries, gifts of the Holy Spirit, fruit of the Holy Spirit and all relevant gospel truths and revelations by the Holy Spirit. For we are in the bible prophecy days that they shall all be taught by God meaning that they have faith in Jesus to receive the ministrations of the word and Spirit **(John 6:45)**. **Yes God draws people by teaching them. Everyone, then, who hears and learns from the Father will come to Christ according to the New King James Bible Commentary.** Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:21 & 22 – Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are your's; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's;

Having emphasized on the need to trust in the wisdom of God and not in the wisdom of this world as a Believing Christian, Church worker, Church leader, Minister and Christian leader, Apostle Paul makes another revelation to the Corinthians. That all things are yours is a statement of assurance that all that God has done in Christ by the Holy Spirit and through Ministers and Christian leaders in preaching and teaching and prayer was for their blessing and good. Their Christian faith and lives were to be enriched with the roles and ministries and gifts of Ministers, Church leaders and any other person being used by God in Christ and led by the Holy Spirit. Hence they were cautioned to give the glory to God and not to people.

This was a timely intervention by Apostle Paul to the Church in Corinth because the Corinthians society believed, recognized and respected physical strength and achievements as the epitome of success in human society contrary to God's word in **Jeremiah 9:23 & 24**.

In other words, Paul's assurance to the Corinthians meant that his apostolic ministry was for their benefits as well as all other Ministers in the likes of Apollos and Cephas.

The great mystery of God revealed in the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ was for their benefit. Therefore as Believers, they had the hope of eternal life through resurrection. The baptism of the Holy Spirit as a result of their obedience to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ was for their benefit. Truly, the Church of Corinth was endowed with spiritual gifts to the glory of God **(1 Corinthians 12:3 – 11)**. On the contrary, Apostle Paul's message meant that they would have nothing to benefit in this life and eternity if they stopped believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. They will not have Christ and the Holy Spirit of God to enrich themselves spiritually in God's supreme wisdom if they believed and preferred the wisdom of men. But Paul's thanksgiving to God for the Corinthian Believers was the grace of God working in their lives, ministries and Church where they were enriched in everything by God; all utterance and knowledge **(1 Corinthians 1:4 – 7)**.

On this truth and revelation, Paul still assured the Corinthians that God had designed and purposed that everything about this world, life, death, things present, and things to come are to benefit them. For **"all things are yours"** in God's perfect will.

It means to say that the past, present and the future are in God's perfect will to bless us forever as long as we are obedient to the heavenly calling. Whether Jesus Christ returns now or in the future; when you die as a Believing Christian as having fulfilled your ministry, **"all things are yours"**. Whether present things in life and the Church such as spiritual gifts and Church buildings and Church properties and decorations or things to come as blessings freely given by God, **"all things are yours"**.

It means that the day you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, all these blessings kept by the power of God are your divine inheritance **(Colossians 1:12)**. And the day you stop believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and you start living your own life, there is no inheritance for you **(Ephesians 5:5)**.

The bible states Jesus' prayer to the Father for the disciples: **"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them (John 17:9 & 10)**.

According to the New King James Bible Commentary, Jesus prayed did not pray for the whole world but for present and future Believers.

I am very confident of my conviction that Jesus prophesied also about the eternal blessings for the Church even before it was birthed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. For all peoples and things that belongs to the Father was delivered to Him and became His inheritance. Hence both the Father and the Son have all things in common in which Christ is glorified in them. Hallelujah.

This means that Jesus reestablished His position as the Son and messianic title as the Christ for the sake of the disciples. By His prayer, He emphasized on His divinity and relationship with the Father before the beginning of time as the Word **(John 1:1 – 4)** and in time as the Word who became a Human Being to fulfill the messianic prophecy **(John 1:14)**.

The bible says that the older brother of the prodigal son complained about the father's killing of the fattest cow and throwing a party for him despite his unfaithfulness. The father's reply was that **"Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours" (Luke 15:11 – 32)**. Yes all that belonged to the father was given to the faithful older brother. Know that faithfulness in the Christian faith achieves for us the receipt of all blessings unlike backsliding and unfaithfulness. Truly whenever a backsliding sinner returns to the Lord, there is rejoicing in heaven but the faithful in the Lord have eternal works and contributions to turn many people from sin unto righteousness and God is pleased with them more than the comeback sinner who now has to have an eternal bank of souls. Therefore be faithful in the Christian faith.

Likewise, Jesus' word of assurance to His Church is that all that the Father has given unto Him are ours because our faith is in Him. This includes power and authority by the Church to establish law and order on earth through the gospel of Jesus Christ. This includes power and authority over the devil and his demons just as Jesus destroyed them **(1 John 3:8)**.

In this truth and revelation, Paul blessed the name of God and eternal relationship with the Son and connected the blessings of the Church to the Father and Son. For we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. Also He chose us before the foundations of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in love. Paul further explained it as predestination to be sons through Jesus Christ according to the good pleasure of His will **(Ephesians 1:3 – 6)**. The simple message for your understanding here is that all that belongs to Christ as the Son of God belongs to the Church and you also as a member of His Church.

On this truth and revelation, we cannot trust in the wisdom of men but the wisdom of God. Therefore we say that not unto us and not unto us but to the name of the LORD be glory, honour and adoration because of mercy and truth **(Psalms 115:1)**. When you see your nothingness but the greatness of God, you will magnify His Holy name and give Him all the glory.

I tell you the truth that the anointing and eternal blessings of a faithful Believing Christian, Church worker, Church leader, Minister and Christian leader is bigger and greater than occasional backsliding Christians. Yeah don't let the devil and his demons deny you of your blessings through the works of the flesh **(Galatians 5:19 – 21)**. But rather bear the fruit of the Spirit as the evidence of your salvation by God in Christ **(Galatians 5:22 & 23)**. Be wise because all things are yours. Amen.

New King James Bible Commentary: All things are yours: The stoic literature of the time, which the Corinthians would have known, often spoke of the wise man as possessing everything. Everything God has done in the Church and entire universe benefits all Believers. There is no place for foolish boasting or competition among Christians.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS WAS THAT THE MINISTRY WORKS OF HIS MINISTRY AND THAT OF OTHER MINISTERS LIKE APOLLOS OR

CEPHAS (PETER), THINGS ON EARTH AND IN THE HEAVENS AND HEAVEN ITSELF, AND EVEN THINGS TO COME HAVE ALL BEEN MADE AND DESIGNED BY GOD TO BE A BLESSING TO US IN CHRIST. HENCE WE MUST GIVE GLORY TO GOD AND NOT THE WISDOM, RICHES AND GLORIES OF MEN.

IT MEANS TO SAY THAT MINISTRIES, BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST (WORD OF GOD), CHURCHES, MINISTERS, DEACONS, DEACONESSES AND ELDERS, AND THE WORKS AND MINISTRIES OF OTHER CHURCHES SUCH AS CHOIR, INSTRUMENTALISTS, USHERS, VARIOUS COMMITTEES TO MENTION A FEW, ARE ALL SKEWED TO BLESS US ETERNALLY. THEREFORE GIVE GLORY TO GOD FOR THE GRACE GIVEN US IN ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO RIGHTEOUSNESS.

PRAYER

Thank you O God for teaching us in Christ that all things are ours and for our eternal benefits whether spiritual or physical, Church or outside the Church, death, past, present and future.

Help us to bear fruit of the Spirit to complement the gifts of the Holy Spirit as Your wisdom over human wisdom.

We pray that we shall not lack any good thing in our lives, ministries and the Churches all over the world.

Help us to depend on Your grace and be committed and faithful as Your children and Church to receive and manifest in the fullness of Your blessings given to us as a Church. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

FAITHFULNESS IN CHRIST UNLOCKS ALL ETERNAL BLESSINGS AND PHYSICAL BLESSINGS OF GOD AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHRISTIAN LEADERS AND MINISTERS. FOR THIS BLESSING IS BIGGER AND BETTER THAN THE BLESSING OF BACKSLIDING CHRISTIANS WHO RETURN IN RESPONSE TO THE CONVICTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. BE FAITHFUL BECAUSE THE WISDOM OF GOD IS BETTER THAN THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

WHEN YOU PASS YOUR TRIALS OF FAITH AND OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS, SPIRITUAL ELEVATION IS ASSURED AND THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS YOU TO BE FAITHFUL AS A BELIEVING CHRISTIAN, CHURCH WORKER, MINISTER, AND CHRISTIAN LEADER. BE FAITHFUL AND GIVE GLORY TO GOD; FOR ALL THINGS ARE YOURS. THIS IS ENOUGH MOTIVATION TO CONTINUE IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND BE FAITHFUL. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

ALL THINGS ARE YOURS IS THE LORD'S BLESSING FOR HIS CHURCH AND NOT TO THE WORLD. THEREFORE THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD IN ONE CHURCH IS MEANINGLESS UNLESS IT IS CONNECTED AND TIED TO THE BLESSINGS OF

OTHER CHURCHES OF BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHURCH WORKERS, CHURCH LEADERS, MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS. NANA KWAKU DUODU

YE ARE CHRIST'S; CHRIST IS GOD'S

INSPIRATION

Sense of identity and belonging is the knowledge and confidence of time to make good and righteous decisions and contributions in life, ministry and the Church. Therefore we walk in the blessings of all things are yours, we must remember that they belong to us only in Christ and to God.

Your sense of belonging is the pure identity and determination of character formation, habits and works. The bible tells us that a righteous person should choose his friends carefully. For the way of the wicked leads them astray (**Proverbs 12:26**). Let's study further.

1 Corinthians 3:23 – And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

1// YE ARE CHRIST'S

The Apostle Paul made a profound statement to the Church in Corinth as he concluded the third chapter of his message and writing to the Corinthians. This confirmed his faith in Christ as an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In revelation and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he added quickly that the Believing Christians in the Church and elsewhere have their sense of belonging in Jesus Christ; ye are Christ's. They belonged to the resurrected Christ because He died and resurrected from the dead. Though all things belonged to them as a Church, they were to be mindful of the truth that it is only Christ that they have received all things. This was also why Paul was determined not to know anything about them except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (**1 Corinthians 2:2**). That is knowledge and belief in no other name as the Messiah and the Christ apart from the Lord Jesus Christ.

In other words, Paul reminded them of the new covenant that the Church has with Christ. Their faith in Christ was to determine their lives, words, ministry and works and relationship with God and people. They were to walk by faith and not by sight. They were to be united in the Church and not divided. They were to be builders of the Lord's Church and not destroyers. For the existence of the Church as members alone defined their faith in the Lord Jesus. They were to have the mind of Christ and not the mind of the world. They were to depend on the wisdom of God and not the wisdom of this world. That is why Paul's salutation introduced himself as an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God and not the will of man (**1 Corinthians 1:1**).

They were not to have foolish boasting because all things in Christ by God was for their blessing and edification and future. They were not to have foolish boasting because they belonged to Christ and not to the world **(1 Corinthians 3:21 & 22)**.

In Christ, God chose us to go and bear fruits that will last and not us choosing Him to do our own things **(John 15:16)**. For we died with Christ **(Galatians 2:20)** and resurrected with Him from the dead **(Colossians 2:12)**.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS WAS THAT THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING IS CHRIST AND THIS WAS TIED TO THE PHYSICAL AND ETERNAL PROVISIONS OF GOD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THEM. IT REVEALED THE ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH OF WHICH WE ARE MEMBERS. THEIR POSSESSION OF ALL THINGS WAS A RESTORATION OF WHAT ADAM AND EVE LOST IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN. THE SECOND ADAM IN THE PERSON OF CHRIST TOOK THE POWER AND AUTHORITY BACK AND GAVE IT TO THE CHURCH AS AN ETERNAL BLESSING.

2// CHRIST IS GOD'S

Another profound message to the Corinthians as Paul ended chapter 3 was the truth that Christ is God's. That is God owns the Christ as the Creator, and He is the Father and Master Architect of eternal salvation. For Christ's work of salvation was fulfilment of the messianic prophecy and scriptures as the word of God. Since Jesus Christ is the Son of God, as the second order of the Trinity before the Holy Spirit, it means that eternal salvation and blessings are of God who is number one in terms of divine order of the trinity.

This was a solution to the controversy of the identity of Jesus and relationship with God especially the teachings of the Jewish synagogues. For some Jews did not believe in Christ's work of salvation as the handiwork of God and this had a negative impact in the lives of Gentile Churches and Believers.

It means to say that all that Jesus did as the Messiah and the Christ was by the Father's will. That is why Paul introduced himself to the Corinthians at the beginning of his first epistle as an Apostle by the will of God **(1 Corinthians 1:1)**. Again Paul reminded the Corinthians that his apostolic ministry was not with persuasive and enticing words but by the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power so that their faith will be in the power of God and not wisdom of men **(1 Corinthians 2:4 & 5)**.

Clearly from the beginning to the end, Paul proved that salvation is of the Lord Jesus Christ in the will of God and working of the Holy Spirit. For God is One who manifests Himself in three persons as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to save us from sin and establish us the Church in His perfect will **(Matthew 18 – 20)**.

What was their foolish boasting then? There was no need at all, for all things belonged to them. And they belonged to Christ having put their faith in Him as Saviour and Lord to become children of God. And Christ is God's revealed in the Trinitarian structure of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. With this revelation of divine truth and structure, he increased the faith of the Corinthians to depend on the wisdom of God other than the wisdom of this world.

The bible says that God sent His Son Jesus into the world so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life **(John 3:16)**. It means that Jesus Christ did not come by His own authority but was sent by God in fulfillment of scripture and prophecy **(Isaiah 6:8, 11:1 – 10)**.

The eternal relationship between the Father and Son existed before the foundations of this earth **(John 1:1 – 5)**, as the Son is in the Father just as the Father is in the Son. For this eternal relationship reflected in thoughts, communication and works in regard to the fulfillment of the messianic prophecy **(John 14:9 – 11)**.

Therefore you can never believe the testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ without having the revelation of fulfilling the Messianic prophecy of God. You cannot separate the role of the Father and Son in creation and eternal salvation. If you believe in Christ's testimony as an act of God, you are saved and blessed eternally **(John 3:16)**. If you disbelieve the role of God manifested in three Persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you cannot be saved eternally and has no sense of belonging in Christ and all things can never be yours **(John 3:18)**.

For this truth and revelation, the Church practices the Christian faith in prayer, preaching, teaching, counseling, fellowship, Church services, manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and fruit of the Holy Spirit under the leadership of the fivefold ministry of the Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher **(Ephesians 4:11)**. Keep believing buddy.

PAUL'S MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS WAS THAT CHRIST'S IS GOD'S WAS TIED TO THE PHYSICAL AND ETERNAL PROVISIONS OF GOD IN CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THEM. IF CHRIST'S IS GOD'S, THEN THE CORINTHIANS WERE DULY INFORMED THAT THE SALVATION OF CHRIST THAT MAKES BELIEVERS BELONG TO HIM IS SKEWED TOWARDS GOD AS THE FATHER AND MASTER ARCHITECT OF ETERNAL SALVATION.

PRAYER

Dear God, we are grateful for the truth and revelation that our sense of belonging is Jesus Christ and not the devil and his demons.

Therefore we pray and rededicate our lives to You that Christ be formed in us daily.

With Your Holy Spirit, help us to acknowledge that Christ's sense of belonging is God who manifests Himself in three Persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And that everything You have blessed us on this earth and eternity through Christ must honour and glorify God, and never the wisdom of people.

We pray that Your Holy Spirit will be our Helper in Jesus' name. Amen.

AMAZING GOD; AMAZING GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. IF ALL THINGS ARE YOURS, IT IS BECAUSE OUR SENSE OF BELONGING IS JESUS CHRIST AS BELIEVING CHRISTIANS, CHURCH WORKERS, CHURCH LEADERS, MINISTERS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS OF THE NEW COVENANT. THEREFORE WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD BECAUSE CHRIST IS GOD'S WHO MANIFESTS HIMSELF AS THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT EVIDENT IN THE WORK OF ETERNAL SALVATION IN SAVING PEOPLE AND ESTABLISHING HIS CHURCH. KEEP UP THE CHRISTIAN FAITH BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS YOUR HELPER TO GIVE GOD ALL THE GLORY AND NOT TO PEOPLE. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**

NO CHRIST; NO GOD; NO ETERNAL LIFE; NO BLESSINGS, YOU CAN'T CLAIM TO BE A WORSHIPPER OF GOD WHEN YOU DON'T TRUST IN HIS OFFER OF SALVATION THROUGH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST. AND YOU CAN'T RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST. FOR GOD IS ONE WHO MANIFESTS HIMSELF IN THREE PERSONS OF THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT; THE TRINITY. HENCE WE GIVE THE GLORY TO GOD AND NOT TO THE WISDOM OF PEOPLE. **NANA KWAKU DUODU**



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