

Week 12
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Transforming Daily
“... the fire will test each one’s work ...”
1 Corinthians 3:13

It is only after a sinner comes to faith in Christ that his or her works are to be taken into consideration. Before conversion, our works have wrought us condemnation. The Bible records that no one is righteous, save Jesus Christ, not even one (Romans 3:10). In other words, we are saved to work we do not work to be saved. There is no work apart from the work of Jesus Christ upon the cross of Calvary that affords the sinner redemption.

Salvation is the beginning point of our service to the King. We do not serve to be saved; we serve because we are saved. Furthermore, we do not serve to pay the Lord back for His sacrifice as our substitutionary atonement. It is impossible to pay Him back. If it were possible, then the crucifixion, burial and resurrection was unnecessary and in vain. Besides, God doesn’t ask us to pay Him back, just to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8).

Throughout Scripture, fire, applied both literally and figuratively, is used as an instrument of testing. The purpose of fire as an instrument of testing is purification, that is, to remove all impurities and imperfections revealing only that which is trustworthy. The process leaves the basic, core value of the materials being tested. Therefore, fire applied to the believer’s work will reveal their faith and trust in God.

In view here, in Corinthians, is the conduct becoming or unbecoming of a Christian in the face of daily choices regarding the pagan and ungodly, though popular, cultural practices in which perhaps just recently, the convert participated. Paul, throughout both first and second Corinthians, instructs, encourages, corrects and admonishes the believers to live God honoring lives. In this passage, he reminds the church to remember who they are in Christ and who Christ is in them.

Do you know who you are in Christ? Do you know who Christ is in you? Do your works, and does your service reflect such knowledge and relationship? At the judgment seat of Christ, the fire will test each one’s work.