

## **1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23<sup>v</sup>**

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

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### **<sup>v</sup> About the Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23**

Paul seeks to overcome the community's divisions by reminding them that they are God's building. He then draws certain conclusions based on the metaphor of God's building in which the only true foundation is Jesus Christ.

Paul then addresses the Corinthians directly reminding them of the type of building they are: "you (plural) are God's temple." The idea of individuals (6:19) as temples for the god dwelling within was common in Hellenism, but Paul's primary reference for the image here is the community, the local church. Those who destroy the Christian community by fostering a spirit of quarreling and arrogance face judgment from God.

In verses 18-23 Paul returns to the themes of 1:10-29, quoting Job 5:13 and Psalm 94:11 to show the futility of human wisdom. Relationship to a particular leader is nothing to boast of (1:12); rather, leaders belong to the Church as servants (3:5). "All things" are in the

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Corinthians' grasp, but as God's gift (4:7). They are Christ's possession, as Christ is in union with God.