

Hold on

Test everything. Hold on (hold fast) to the good.
I Thessalonians 5:21

There is a development near me which was begun some years ago, but for some reason the developer never completed it. Some of the buildings just stand there with their wood construction all exposed to the elements and looking very gray. Paul compares us to a building in I Corinthians 3:9. He goes on to say that each one should be careful how he builds (vs. 10). This building is compared to the temple (vs. 16) and there is an exhortation to keep this building sacred (vs. 17). Building this spiritual building which is holy and pleasing to the Lord is an ongoing work that is always based on truth. It is good to receive new truth and blessing without sacrificing the truths already proved and abandoning the foundations already laid.

I love this verse in Ecclesiastes and I have made it one of my life verses: "It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. The man who fears God will avoid all extremes." I picture a person climbing a ladder and how important each rung is to him. As we grow in the Lord, each rung or truth is an important reality in our ascent. We cannot abandon one truth for the next. I say this because as the Lord builds us we can forget what he said that got us here to begin with. Recently I had to look back over my notes from a year ago to see what the Lord was saying then and how it fit in to today. It was amazing to see the direction he has been giving us and how the foundation is fitting the building.

Do you keep life notes? I don't. I do keep notes of sermons I have heard or written and things I read in the Bible or that the Lord has said to me. But I don't put them together and look at what he has founded in me or what he is building. A couple weeks ago I dug out some old notebooks and looked through them. It took some time but wow! I found out that there were certain things that the Lord was saying over and over to me and there were other things that were new. There were other things that were either for the moment or were an answer for a pressing problem of the time. It was refreshing to learn again what the Lord had said. I took a piece of paper and wrote down the things that were important so that I could remember and recall them. They are important in what the Lord is building in me. You can do the same. It will take some time, but it is very worth it. Go back; review like you do when you are going to take a test.

Do you have life verses? I do. One of them is above. Life verses are scriptures that mean a lot to you personally. They motivate you, but also provide a truth foundation for you to live from. Do you have scriptures underlined in your Bible? Look them over some time. Write them down and repeat them to yourself. Remember what Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away." (Matthew 25:35).

In closing, look at how Paul balances revelation in his life, "Not that I have already obtained all this or have already been made perfect but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ has taken hold of me. Only let us live up to what we have already attained." (Philippians 3:12 and 16)