

A serene sunset scene with a vibrant orange and red sky. A large, dark silhouette of a thatched umbrella stands on the left, its frame extending over a body of water. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, casting a shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

The Inner Peace Of Forgiveness

Building Bridges

Lu. 6:46-49

“The Facade of Future Fiasco”

Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation **built an house upon the earth**; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

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A background image of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is a bright yellow-orange orb on the horizon, casting a long, shimmering reflection down the center of the water. The sky is a gradient of colors from deep purple at the top to bright orange and red near the horizon. A dark silhouette of a bridge with multiple arches spans the width of the image, its reflection also visible in the water.

Our theme this year is *“Building Bridges.”*

“The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed more people than the Great War, known today as World War I (WWI)...It has been cited as the most devastating epidemic in recorded world history. More people died of influenza in a single year than in four-years of the Black Death Bubonic Plague from 1347 to 1351. Known as "Spanish Flu" or "La Grippe" the influenza of 1918-1919 was a global disaster.

<https://virus.stanford.edu/uda/>

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https://www.google.com/search?q=the+spanish+flu+epidemic&biw=1315&bih=886&source=Inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjE6L6sr4DQAhXDZiYKHdsiAqIQ_AUIBigB&dpr=1#imgsrc=4Ml1hc4xAEEaNM%3A

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https://www.google.com/search?q=the+spanish+flu+epidemic&biw=1315&bih=886&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjE6L6sr4DQA hXDZiYKHdsiAqIQ_AUIBigB&dpr=1#q=the%20spanish%20flu%20epidemic&tbm=isch&tbs=rimg%3ACeDCNYXOMQBBlijgdtm0T3xeRmoyyrQ0_1cF CrPrKjMRx26JXe1nFBo7-7PdE-blmwcl1x3P5i_1imv0MbNoTd4_1md14yoSCR22bRPfE5GaERpfcVpoFXhVKhUjLktdT9vUk3Rg8kTi7CAToQoEgk-sqMxHHbolRHzi7wPcXUDkSoSCd7WcUGjv7s9Ef_1bVizAzesjKhIJ0T5sibBwvXER67AWYRCxrWsqEgnc_1mL-0s_1QxhGk02cx2gNpC5bCc2fN3j-Z3XjEQ4L7V25YIH1&imgcr=1riLqXMF5dHKxM%3A

The Power of Forgiveness

“...they still don’t know exactly where the virus came from or how it achieved such staggering lethality, **killing more than half a million Americans and an estimated 50 million people worldwide in a single year.**

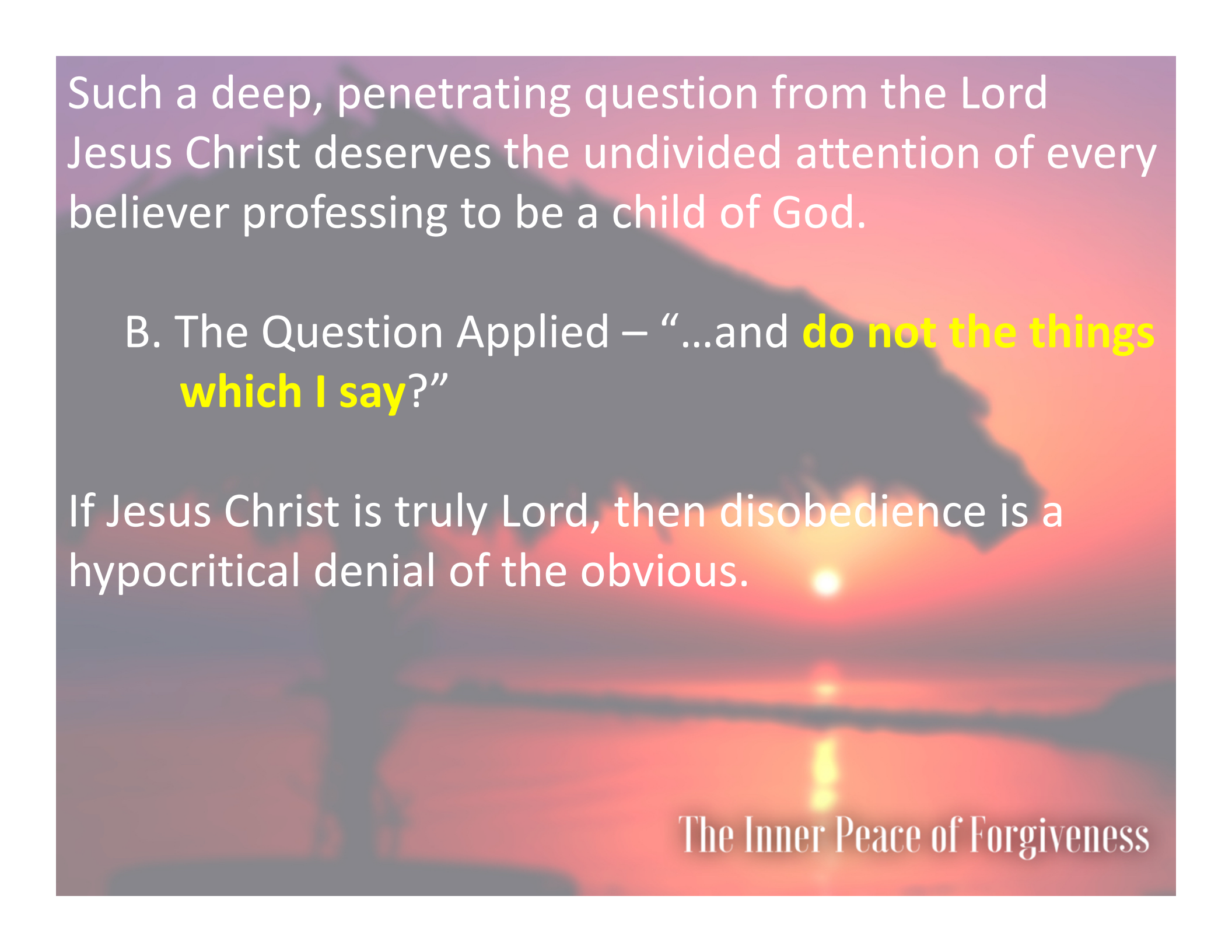
Some researchers believe the story began on the morning of this day, Mar. 11, 1918, when a soldier in Fort Riley, Kans., went to the camp infirmary with a fever.”

<http://time.com/3731745/spanish-flu-history/>

I. THE PRIORITY OF THE ILLUSTRATION – 6:46

A. The Question Asked – “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord...”

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Such a deep, penetrating question from the Lord Jesus Christ deserves the undivided attention of every believer professing to be a child of God.

B. The Question Applied – “...and **do not the things which I say?**”

If Jesus Christ is truly Lord, then disobedience is a hypocritical denial of the obvious.

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The humility of obedience:

Luke 17:7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

9 **Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him?** I trow not.

10 So likewise ye, **when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.**

The priority for a believer is doing what the Lord Jesus says = OBEDIENCE.

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II. THE PREMISE OF THE ILLUSTRATION – 6:47-49

A. The Duration that Results in the Commitment to Obedience to the Lord

Luke 6:47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

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- The search – the builder came to Jesus.
- The submission – the builder heard and followed directions:
 - The builder “dugged deep” – he was not satisfied with superficial service.
 - The builder “laid the foundation on a rock” – he persevered until he had the right foundation.

1 Cor. 10:4 “...and that Rock was Christ.”

- The builder built a house that would endure the ravages of life – “... and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.”

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B. The Disaster that Results in the Carelessness of NOT Obeying the Lord

Luke 6:49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation **built an house upon the earth**; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and **the ruin of that house was great.**

- The builder heard, but did not do what he was told.
- The builder built a house.
- The builder's apparent progress was a delusion and deadly deception.

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Mt. 13:30 **Let both grow together until the harvest:** and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and **bind them in bundles to burn them:** but gather the wheat into my barn.

- The ravages of life revealed the weakness that precipitated the disaster.
- The end of the devastation was great ruin – similar to the Spanish Flu of 1918.

Deut. 32:29 O that they were wise, *that* they understood this, ***that they would consider their latter end!***

Prov. 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, **that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.**

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2 Pet. 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, **the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.**

Summary

Both builders had opportunity to hear.

Both builders had opportunity to do what they heard.

One was a wise man (Mt. 7:24) that was obedient in his participation to build.

One was foolish (Mt. 7:26) that build upon the wrong foundation.

To build a house that will withstand the ravages of life, the builder must dig deep, and lay the foundation upon the solid rock – the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Conclusion

This influenza outbreak was a worldwide devastation.

Preventable Disasters: Why Governments Fail

By Frederick L. Shiels

“Of all the characteristics that we have determined seemed preventable, the tendency to underestimate the opposition is the most recurrent.” (p. 180)

“Sometimes the information is available but is lost in the noise of other information that more clearly conforms what the decision makers want to hear.” (p. 182)

https://books.google.com/books?id=K66iLmZzpjYC&pg=PA178&lpg=PA178&dq=preventable+historical+fiascos&source=bl&ots=Ixs6ZBZkL7&sig=k1xKJDxv0mvjsfgdV_w2I7ycZE0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjb9LvKs4DQAhWDQyYKHbvyD0cQ6AEIHDAA#v=onepage&q=preventable%20historical%20fiascos&f=false

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1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seeking whom he may devour:**

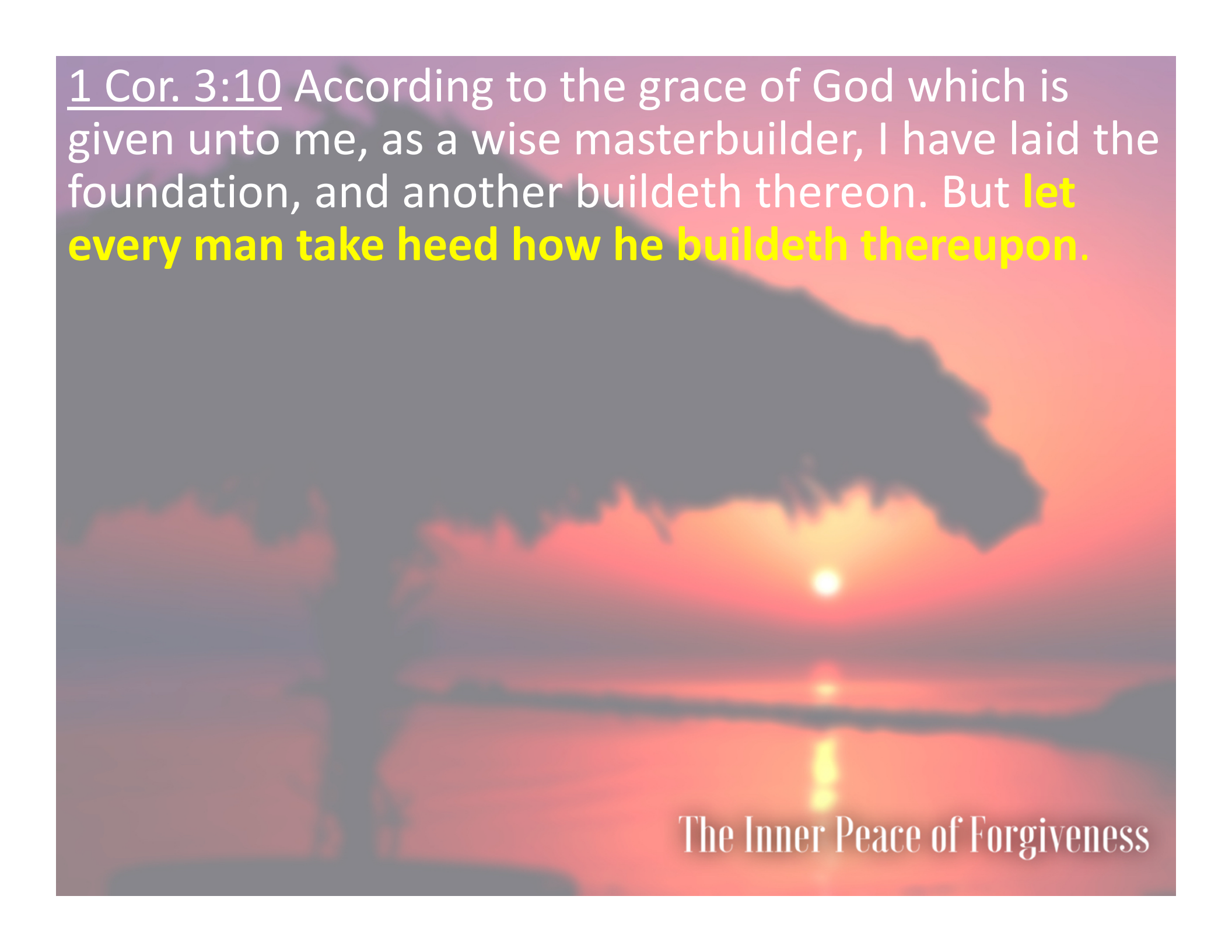
9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that **the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.**

Let's consider two passages: one from the Old Testament and one from the New:

1 Chron. 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, **know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind:** for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: **if thou seek him, he will be found** of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

10 Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: **be strong, and do it.**

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1 Cor. 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.**

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