1. **1 Corinthians 3:10-11**

* What do you believe Paul means when he stated, he “laid a foundation”?
* Why do others need to “be careful” building “upon it”?

1. **1 Corinthians 3:12-13**

* Give an example of what building upon the foundation using “gold” or “silver” might represent?
* Give an example of what building upon the foundation using “wood, hay or straw” might represent?
* What is “the Day” Paul is talking about, that “will disclose” everyone’s work?
* Name the effect that fire can have on both metals such as “gold” or “silver” and organic materials like “wood, hay or straw”.
* Notice Paul says “the fire itself will test,” if you had to assign the fire to someone whom would it be?
* What is the overall purpose or goal of the “fire” according to Paul?
* **Zechariah 13:7-9**
* Name two things the fire brings about in **Zechariah**?
* **1 Peter 1:6-9**
* What does “tested by fire” here in **1 Peter** refer to?
* What is the outcome for those who have been tested by fire?

1. **1 Corinthians 3:14**

* Explain how a person gets to “receive a wage” according to **1st Corinthians**?
* **Romans 6:23**
* What do “the wages of sin” get you?
* Reflect on **1st Corinthians** and name what type of “work” Paul might be talking about there, the type that a person might receive a “wage” for if it “stands” up to the “test”?

1. **1 Corinthians 3:15**

* What happens if the person’s work is “burned up,” do they lose their “wage”?
* Consider, if “the Day” is the day of judgement for each of us who have passed from this world to the next, how is it that we could “suffer loss” during that time, but yet still be “saved”? Please share your thoughts on this.
* What might this “fire” Paul talks about do to us, please share your thoughts?
* Can this be insinuating that one can be delivered from sin even after death?
* In the **Old Testament**, did anyone else believe one could be delivered from sin after death, if so, please name who?
* **2 Maccabees 12:38-46**
* What did Judas want for the dead?
* In the **New Testament**, did anyone imply one could be delivered from sin after death, if so name him?
* **Luke 18:29-30**
* Define the difference between “this present age” and “the age to come” in Luke?
* **Matthew 12:31-32**
* What does Jesus imply here about sins other than “blasphemy against the Spirit”?
* Read the **Catechism 1030-1032** and **1054**
* Look at the reference in the Catechism what scriptures does it cite?
* Read the following **Church Fathers**:

**Tertullian, *The Soul* 58, 8 (inter 208-212 AD)**

*“In short, if we understand that prison of which the Gospel speaks to be Hades, and if we interpret the last farthing to be the light offense which is to be expiated there before the resurrection, no one will doubt that the soul undergoes some punishments in Hades, without prejudice to the fullness of the resurrection, after which recompense will be made through the flesh also.”*

**St. Cyprian of Carthage, *The Lapsed* 17 (251 AD)**

*“The Lord alone is able to have mercy. He alone, who bore our sins, who grieved for us, and whom God delivered up for our sins, is able to grant pardon for the sins which have been committed against Him ... Certainly we believe that the merits of the martyrs and the works of the just will be of*

*great avail with the Judge****––****but that will be when the day of judgment comes, when, after the end of this age and of the world, His people shall stand before the tribunal of Christ.”*

**St. Cyril of Jerusalem, *Catechetical Lectures* 23 (Mystagogic 5), 10 (c. 350 AD)**

*“Then we make mention also of those who have already fallen asleep: first, the patriarchs, prophets, Apostles, and martyrs, that through their prayers and supplications God would receive our petition; next, we make mention also of the holy fathers and bishops who have already fallen asleep, and, to put it simply, of all among us who have already fallen asleep; for we believe that it will be of very great benefit to the souls of those for whom the petition is carried up, while this holy and most solemn Sacrifice is laid out.”*

**St. Gregory of Nyssa, *Sermon on the Dead*  (383 AD)**

*“After his departure out of the body, he gains knowledge of the difference between virtue and vice, and finds that he is not able to partake of divinity until he has been purged of the filthy contagion in his soul by the purifying fire.”*

**St. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on First Corinthians* 41, 5 (c. 392 AD)**

*“Let us help and commemorate them. If Job’s sons were purified by their father’s sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them.”*

**St.Augustine of Hippo, *The Care that Should be Taken for the Dead* 1, 3 (421 AD)**

*“We read in the book of Maccabees that the sacrifice was offered for the dead. But even if it were found nowhere in the Old Testament writings, the authority of the universal Church which is clear on this point is of no small weight, where in the prayers of the priest poured forth to the Lord God at His altar the commendation of the dead has its place.”*

* Please share something that was meaningful to you in this study.