***1 Cor 3:9-11 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. 10According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.***

There’s an old hymn we used to sing called The Churches One Foundation. It starts, “The churches One foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is His new creation by water and the Word”. I love that hymn. We have one foundation, Jesus Christ our Lord. We are God’s building. We are God’s field. Beulah and Old Lea Bethel Baptist have a long history of being sister churches. Our churches have shared the same pastor years ago, shared a parsonage, even now we have families in common, but most importantly, we share a passion for the lost in our community and pointing them to Jesus! Ultimately, we want the lost to have a Homecoming too and that Homecoming must rest upon One foundation.

Today we will commune, eat, sing, celebrate, and love – but, tomorrow we must go forth with a Great Commission focus, building on the One foundation. This is Homecoming, not Home-staying. Jesus does not say stay. He says go.

The 1st letter of Paul to the Corinthians is to address dissension. The church of Corinth is in danger of slipping off its One foundation. There is infighting in the church. One group says it is of Apollos. The other says it is of Paul. Paul writes saying – We are of Jesus, and we must never forget that! Many churches today are in danger of slipping off the One foundation – motivational speakers in the pulpit, coffee bars in the entry way, praise bands screaming from the choir loft – but, we are of Jesus. We must never forget that.

Verse 9 starts *For we are God’s fellow workers.* Paul is referring directly to Apollos and himself when he says this. This carries the idea of workers moving at the direction of a Master. He and Apollos are spreading the Gospel, doing God’s work. They are fellow workers – they are working together for the same end. No jealously, no pride. Neither created the seed they spread. They nourish it by planting and watering.

We too are God’s fellow workers. The pastor feeds the sheep. But then the sheep are to go out among the wolves. The call is not to sit at the table, but to go to the fields! When we’ve accepted Christ, we become seed sowers and waterers. We are not called to sit at the table sopping up the gravy, but to go to the fields that are white unto the harvest! We understand the worker must come home for dinner, but tomorrow he’d better be back in the field.

Verse 9 continues - *you are God’s field, you are God’s building.* The word for field can mean vineyard. This has the idea – you are the field we are planting, you’re the vineyard we’re tending, you’re the building we’re helping God build. Paul is desperately imploring the people to remember who the real Owner is! There is something happening within them that the Owner, God, has directed.

Today, I’d tell you that YOU are God’s field, you are God’s building, and you are also God’s fellow worker. Grow in the Word. Expand in faith. We must bear fruit in keeping with the True Vine in which we are abiding!

Verse 10 Paul continues - *According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.* Paul gives glory to God for giving him the ability and the privilege to build. When my house was built, a man came to lay a brick foundation. Brick on brick, he built, the brick below lifting the brick above. Brick on brick, he checked for level, square, and plumb. He took heed of how he built. Paul laid key bricks on a true Foundation, Apollos built upon those bricks. And many, through history have built upon the bricks laid by Paul and Apollos.

Likewise, past and present faithful members of Beulah have built upon the One foundation, Jesus. They took heed of how they built. They built brick by brick, inviting, teaching, discipling, gently correcting. The reason we have a Homecoming is because of the faithful who’ve built on Jesus. God blesses the building and gives increase to the field. We have a **Homecoming** because they refused to be **Home-staying**.

Looking forward, how is the church building? Is the church reaching outward or focused inward? You are building the future. You are the brick uplifting the next brick. How are you building? I’d challenge you to find a brick to support, a new disciple, and bring her, bring him to church. Find someone that needs a church home, help them find this church, so one day they too will enjoy Homecoming because you rejected Home-staying.

Verse 11 *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* One Rock, One Cornerstone, Jesus. No other foundation. Those that build on any other foundation are lost, deceived. Paul is not the foundation. He is a stone set upon the foundation. Apollos is not the foundation. He is a stone set upon the foundation. Any foundation, other than Jesus, is sand. The wise build upon the Rock. The foolish on the sand.

Beulah is here today by the Grace of God and the building of God’s fellow workers with integrity aimed at our One foundation – workers that recognized God’s field and were willing to go and plant, water, nourish the future workers coming behind. Beulah will be here in the future by the Grace of God and the building of you, God’s fellow workers – building with integrity aimed at our One foundation, Jesus Christ our Lord. The recipe doesn’t change.

This week, let’s commit to build on the One foundation. Let’s accept the challenge! Let’s go out and make disciples. Let’s do the hard work. Any farmer knows, if a field worker never gets dirty and never breaks a sweat, they aren’t working in the field. God knows that too. Paul and Apollos planted and watered. Disciples grew, fruit was produced. The recipe is the same today. Plant the seeds of the Gospel in whatever field you’re given! Tend it. Water it. Nourish it. God will give the increase! Homecoming is wonderful! Rest, relax, and enjoy… but Homecoming is not Home-staying. The fields are waiting, the laborers are few. Beulah has a bright, bright, bright future – when the faithful go out to the fields and bring that future home. May we build on the One foundation faithfully, remembering that the Master has called us to be fellow workers in His Kingdom. What a blessing, what a privilege, what an undeserved honor! May we honor our Savior Jesus today and be found in His field tomorrow.