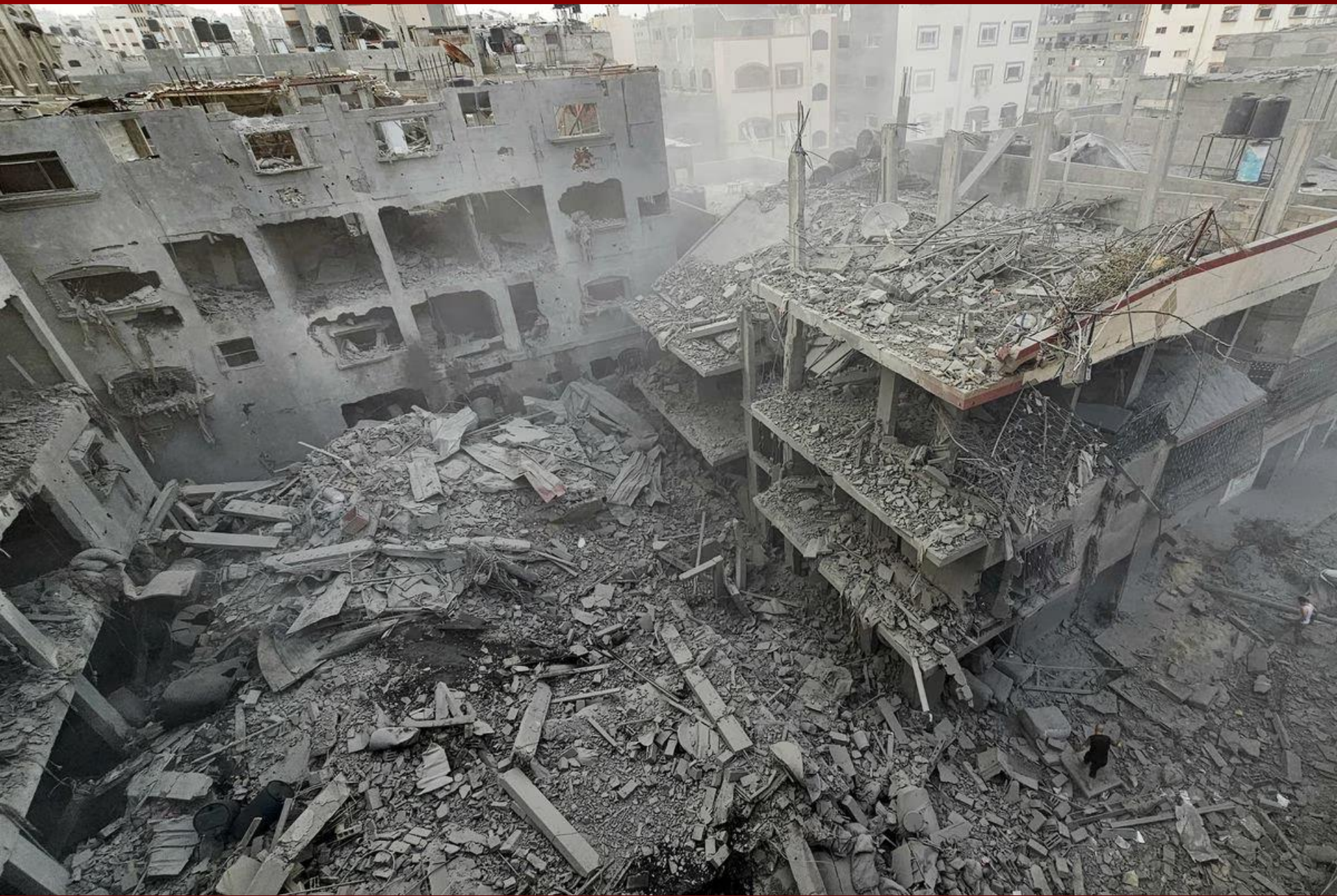




# Building or Destroying

*Neal Parker*





REUTERS

# Gathering or Scattering

## ■ Consideration:

- There can be no neutrality. There is no middle ground with Christ: A person is either with Him or against Him.
- It is possible to be for Christ and His church, and not be with Christ and His church. In short, you may be doing things for Christ, but you are not necessarily with Him
- A genuine Christian is someone who is also with Christ. We must not confuse the idea that if we are for Christ, we are automatically with Him



# Gathering or Scattering

## ■ Consideration:

- You can preach the word of God for selfish reasons and still be for Christ. But you cannot be with Christ and proclaim Christ in pretense. In Matthew 12:30, there is no question of being for Christ. Twice Jesus uses the expression 'with Me'.
- It is when we are yoked to Him that we are really with Him. Where He goes, we go. We are identified with Him in our heart, our mind, our soul and our strength.
- We either gather or we scatter.
- We either build or we destroy.



# Building or Destroying

## ■ A Passage About the Church

- **Building or Destroying**
- **I Corinthians 3:9-17** “For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building...If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him for the temple of God is holy and that I what you are.”
- **You are God's field. And God's workers are working on that field to gather the crop.**
- **The word 'you' is in the plural. 'You, together, are God's building, God's church.'**

# Building or Destroying

## ■ A Passage About the Church

- **Building or Destroying**
- **I Corinthians 3:1-8** “...I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth...each will receive his own reward, according to his own labor.”
- **We are all doing God’s work, but it is only God who causes the growth.**
- **Ephesians 2:19-22** “...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone...”

# Building or Destroying

## ■ A Passage About the Church

- **Building or Destroying**
- **I Corinthians 3:9-17** “For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building...If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him for the temple of God is holy and that I what you are.”
- **The ‘temple’ is singular and the word ‘you’ is plural. ‘You, together, constitute one temple of God.’**
- **I Peter 2:4-10;** “...living stones...spiritual house...” / **Revelation 3:12** “He who overcomes...”



# Building or Destroying

## ■ A Passage About the Church

- **Building or Destroying**
- **I Corinthians 3:9-17** “For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's **building**...If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him for the temple of God is holy and that I what you are.”
- **The Greek word for ‘building’ is the same as the word for ‘edification’. It can either refer to the finished product or to the process.**
- **Verse 9 refers to the church as the ‘structure,’ which is then described in verse 16 as the temple of God.**

# Building or Destroying

## ■ A Passage About the Church

- **Building or Destroying**
- **I Corinthians 3:9-17** “For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building...If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him for the temple of God is holy and that I what you are.”
- **Verses 10-15**, the emphasis is more on the process of building the building. Reference for the concept of ‘building up’ or ‘edifying’ the church.
- **Romans 14:19 / Romans 15:2 / Ephesians 4:12-29**
- **II Corinthians 12:19 / II Corinthians 13:10**

# Building or Destroying

## ■ A Passage About the Church

- **Building or Destroying**
- **I Corinthians 3:9-17** “For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's **building**...If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him for the temple of God is holy and that I what you are.”
- **Things that destroy / God Hates Them**
- **Proverbs 6:16-19** “...and one who spreads strife among brothers.”
- **II Thessalonians 2:1-13 / Acts 15:16-18; 20:28-31**  
(Amos 9:11-12)

# Building or Destroying

- **He Who Is Not With Me Is Against Me**
  - **Be with Him and Gather With Him**
  - **Matthew 12:30 “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.”**
- **Some people seem very concerned about saving themselves but at the same time show little concern about others.**
- **Jesus taught about loving God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourself. When we love our neighbor, we are concerned for their future.**



# Building or Destroying

## ■ Building Materials

– Six building materials

– I Corinthians 3:9-17 “...Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work...”



# Building or Destroying

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- There can be no neutrality. There is no middle ground with Christ: A person is either with Him or against Him.
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# Building or Destroying

## ■ Consideration:

- When we build the church, we are building up people.
- It is not enough just to make a decision for Christ. We must go on from there to edify one another.
- As Christians, we are called not just to believe in Christ, but to work with Him, to serve Him.
- Those who do not share with Him in gathering people for the kingdom, in building up the church, are hindering God's work.
- We either gather or we scatter.
- We either build or we destroy.

