I. CORINTHIANS. III.   
   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED. AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 vealed in fire; and each man’s work, be revealed by fire; and   
 of what sort it is, the fire itself shall the fire shall try every   
 14 Tf any man’s work shall | man’s work of what sort it   
 prove. If any man’s work   
 endure which he hath built there- abide which he hath built   
 bch. iv.5. upon, he shall receive wages. 15 If thereupon, he shall receive   
 any man’s work shall be burned up, areward. \5 If any man’s   
 he shall suffer loss: but he himself work shall be burned, he   
 shall be saved; ‘yet so as through shall suffer loss: but he   
 ¢ Jude %64Know ye not that ye are himself shall be saved ; yet   
 so as by fire. 18 Know ye   
 Eph. i. Heb. iii. 1 ii.5,   
   
 words “shall receive wages” can hardly ings”), he shall suffer loss (literally,   
 be said of mere abiding the test of tribu- muleted, viz. of the wages which would   
 lation) :—because it (the day—not, the otherwise have been his): but he himself   
 work, which would introduce a mere shall be saved (having held, and built on,   
 tautology with the next clause) is [to be] the true foundation Jesus Christ, he shall   
 revealed (in the original, revealed, the not be excluded from that salvation which   
 present tense, expressing the definite cer- is the gift of God to all who believe on   
 tainty of prophecy: or perhaps rather the Christ, but shall get no especial reward   
 attribute of that day, which is, to be as a faithful and effectual teacher. Com-   
 revealed, &c.) in fire (‘accompanied,’ pare 2 John 8, “ Look to yourselves that we   
 ‘clothed,’ ‘ girt,’ fire;’ i.e. will lose not the things which we have wrought,   
 be the element in which the day will be but receive full wages:” so literally.   
 revealed. See 2 Thess. i. 8, and Mal. iii. Meyer remarks, that our Lord hints at   
 2, 3, iv. to which latter place the re- such persons under the name of “ the last,”   
 ference is. But notice, that this is not Matt. xx. 16: Mark x. 31), yet so as   
 the fire of hell, which the gold, silver, through fire :—i.e. a builder whose   
 and costly stones will enter, but the building was consumed would escape with   
 fire of judgment, in which Christ will personal safety, but with the loss of his   
 appear, and by which all works will be work.—Chrysostom, and others of the   
 tried. This universality of trial by fire is ancients, strangely understand it, that he   
 equally against the idea of a purgatorial shall not be consumed like his works, but.   
 fire, which most convenient and lucrative shall be saved from this, and burnt for ever   
 fiction has been mainly based by the in the fire Hell, unconsumed. But (1) the   
 Romanists on a perversion of this passage. fire of Hell is quite alien from the context   
 Their own Commentators are divided on (see above),—and (2) the meaning thus given   
 the question whether there is any allusion to being saved is unexampled,—and least of   
 toit in this and each man’s work, all could be intended where the coming of   
 of what sort it is, the fire itself shall the Lord is spoken of: compare among   
 prove (the fire itself, of its own power, other places, ch. v. Grotius and others   
 being a consuming fire). 14.) If any explain the words as a proverb, ‘as out of   
 man’s work shall endure (i.e. stand the @ fire, i.e. ‘with difficulty.’ But this is   
 fire—being of inconsumable materials) needless here, as the figure itself that of   
 which he built on the foundation,—he a fire. The whole imagery of the passage   
 shall receive wages (as a builder;—i.e. will be best understood by carefully keep-   
 ‘shall be rewarded for his faithful and ing in mind the key, which is to be found   
 eifectual work as a teacher’): 15.] in the words God’s building, and the   
 if any man’s work shall be burned up (i. e. temple of God, as connected with the   
 consist of such materials as the fire will prophecy of Malachi iii. 1—3 and iy. 1.   
 destroy: Stanley adds, “It is possible The Lord thus coming to His temple in   
 that this whole image, as addressed to the flaming fire, the parts of the building   
 Corinthians, may have been suggested, or which will not stand that fire will be con-   
 at least by the conflagration of sumed: the builders of them will escape   
 Corinth under Mummius: the stately with personal salvation, but with the loss   
 temples [one of them remaining to this of their work, through the midst of the   
 day] left standing amidst the universal conflagration.   
 crash and destruction of the meaner build- 16—23.] THE FIGURE IS TAKEN UP