

# I CORINTHIANS | "LABORERS WITH GOD" | 1 Cor. 3:5-9 | LESSON 43

## III INTRO/REVIEW:

• Paul doesn't speak the meat to the Corinthians because of their inability to bear it

• The cause of their inability — their love of the carnal

• "I am of" — denotes some excellency to the individual and that which the individual communicates

• "I am of Paul" > examines some human, fleshly, carnal feature to identity w/  
"I am of Apollos" • wise, mighty, noble (just like the world)

## II PREVIEW:

• Laborers with God

• Reproof (:5a)

• Correction (:5b-9)

• Inst. of Rt (:10-17)

## III SERMON:

[5] — "who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?"

• The Corinthians need to understand God is behind these men and not the men themselves nor the talents and gifts they may possess.

• Paul is constantly humbling himself in argument → the opposite of what many Pastors-Teachers do.

BINDINGS {

- ① Some gift, some ability to give credibility
- ② Some vision from God to give credibility to give you a sense you doing the Lord's work
- ③ Some manifestation of blessing (prosperity)
- ④ Some exploiting of the desires of the flesh

- nothing in Paul & Apollos inherently (Php. 3) (Gal. 1:13-17)
- nothing of special recognition that God needs

• "but ministers by whom ye believed" [4:15, 9:1-15, 11:1]

① both are included

• not just gospel, but more

② ministers must have or been given something to minister

ⓐ "ye believed" - faith comes by hearing the word of God  
 • 1 Th. 2:13

• "even as the Lord gave to every man?"

① The Lord gave men

② The Lord gave those men what they were to minister

③ "every man"

• does not allow for ownership

• The Lord owns and is operating

[6] - "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."

①:5-① Lord gives substance to ministers

② Lord gives ministers to every man

③ Ministers minister God gives the increase

② Illustration of garden, agr. culture  
 • "husbandry", "husbandmen"

(2 Cor. 9:10ff)

• 10-17 = building illustration

• growth, development  
 • "increase" = grow

Eph. 2:21, 4:15

Col 1:10, 2:19

1 Pt. 2:2

2 Pt. 3:18