

L60 | I Corinthians | The Kingdom of God | I Cor. 4:18-21

I. Intro/Review:

- Remembrance of my ways which be in Christ
 - I teach every where in every church
- The wisdom of the world is foolishness with God; the riches of the world are vanity with God

II. Preview:

- Paul conduct that is consistent to the posture of Christ our Lord

III. Sermon:

[18] - "Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you."

- "Now some" - not all, but a group
- "are puffed up" - inflated {with anger, conceit}
 - Used 6x's in NT all by Paul & 5x's in 1 Cor.
 - 1 Cor. 4:6 - "that no one of you be puffed up for one against another."
 - NT equivalent of OT stiff-neck; the pride of life
 - "full, rich, reign as kings" - by reason of thy brightness (Eze. 28)
 - In contrast to "charity" - 1 Cor. 13:4
- "as though I would not come to you."
 - How did Paul know?
 - Seemingly something voiced and packaged with what was shared from the house of Chloe (1 Cor. 1:11)
 - Surely from the factions that identified with "Apollos" or "Cephas".
 - Inference of fleshly thinking from 1 Corinthians 4:16-17
 - "be ye followers of me", but then Paul sends Timotheus
 - What's the big deal with Paul coming?
 - Matter of accountability and responsibility (1 Cor. 4:1 - "Let a man so account of us...")
 - Paul coming is when he would "account" of them - in view of these 4 chapters they are not walking in the riches of grace
 - "eyeservice" - Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25; Titus 2:9-10

- Isa. 29:15 - in the context of :14 which was previously quoted in 1 Cor. 1:19
- Paul's Coming and Christ's Coming
 - Very similar resemblance :19 - "But I will come to you shortly" to "Behold, I come quickly" (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20)
 - Matthew 25:14-30
 - Paul's coming is a type of the judgment seat of Christ (1 Cor. 3:12ff)
 - It is a grace before that time to recompense faithful obedience in the face of their unfaithful disobedience.
 - Their attitude of Paul's coming is reflective of their attitude of Christ's coming!
 - 1 Cor. 16:22; 2 Cor. 13:10

[19] - "But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power."

- **"But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will"**
 - This becomes a big matter
 - 2 Cor. 1:13-24
- **"and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power."**
 - **"the speech of them"** - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
 - "enticing words of man's wisdom"
 - "excellency of speech"
 - **"the power"**
 - "the demonstration of the Spirit and of power:"
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:5

[20] - "For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power."

- Comparing the spiritual things with spiritual
 - This world has excellency of speech, but the kingdom of God is in power
 - Great power is manifested in the resolve of the inner man in positions of weakness
- Similar to Romans 14:17 - "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."
 - **"not in word"** - not just talk
 - **"but in power"** - powerful deeds, deeds showing, marvellous works

- Power manifested with the 1 Thessalonians 2:1ff

[21] - "What will ye? Shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?"

- **"rod"** - 2 Cor. 13:10 - sharpness (sword, sickle)
 - Prov. 10:13, 13:24, 22:15, 23:14, 29:15
 - 2 Cor. 11:25
- **"in love, and in the spirit of meekness?"** - 2 Cor. 10:1; Gal. 5:23, 6:1; Eph. 4:12; Col. 3:12; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:25; Tit. 3:2; 1 Pet. 3:4

IV. Conclusion: