

1 CORINTHIANS | "FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP" | 1 COR. 4:1-7 | LESSON 51

① INTRO/REVIEW:

- ① Wisdom of the World
 - Exalts and judges upon worldly standards
- ② "I am of"
- ③ Self-deception
 - Ⓐ Wisdom of world with God
 - Ⓑ No glory in men
 - Ⓒ All things are yours

② REVIEW:

- ① Further evaluation of men Paul, & others
 - Identity • Criteria • Attitude • Judgment

③ SERMON:

- ① Lots ideas of who a minister is
 - what is to be ministered
- Ⓐ The world will impose its own idea upon the church and ministers
 - Measure effectiveness by the measures and standards of the world
 - Problem - there is a appearance of what God wants, yet it really isn't what God wants.
 - Does God want all men to be saved? Yes
 - Does God want a whole bunch of unsaved in the church?
 - 4 way to do that
- Ⓑ As we have seen and will see the Corinthians were doing this
 - "I am of Paul", etc not because of Christ but because of something Paul possessed or something ascribed to Paul that isn't of Paul.
 - This evaluation of them was based upon the value of worldly things: ① strength, ② wisdom, ③ nobility, etc
 - Although these features may differ, they are unified in source "the love of Love of self or identify with greatness as world sees it. The world."

• Seeing the deception of the Corinthians and love of vanity he provides how they are to view them with a godly view ②

• In other words it isn't that they can't esteem them, but on what basis and not "against" another. (HEB, 13:7, 17; 1Th. 5:12-13)

4 FEATURES of The Minister

- ① Identity
- ② Criteria
- ③ Attitude
- ④ Judgment

① Identity

[1:1] - "let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God"

"let a man so account of us"

- How to be considered
- How a minister should want to be considered

"account" - reason, number, reckon, think, conclude, counted, impute, esteem

- take inventory, accounting
- credit & debit

• Paul's reproof of a man that accounts, considers Paul outside of what he provides them to reckon.

① Ministers of Christ

② Stewards of the Mysteries of God

- servants, slaves, housekeeper
- subordinate

• Do not account of Paul more than this

- ① A man
- ② In Christ a servant

Rom. 6 - servants (recker, yield)

Mar. 20:20-29

• Christ a minister of the Father

• 1 Cor. 11:19

• Php. 2 - form of a servant

• Mar. 10:24

You don't say your "of" a servant
You say your "of" the Master

② Criteria

[1:2] - "Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful"

- "required"
 - sought, desired
 - Luk. 12:48

- "found" - result, the fruit
 - something that may look as if it isn't there is found to be there
 - not just outward

- "faithful" - that which is given to give is given
 - that which taught to do, to be sought & pursued

- Titus 2:9-10
- 1 Pet. 2:18-25
- Col. 3:22-4:1

③ Attitude

[1:3] - "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self"

[1:4] - "For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but He that judgeth me is the Lord."

① "very small thing" - with servants of God its first a matter of what the Master thinks not other servants

- a measure of man's judgment is a thing because if your not serving others, if your not doing the will, it will be known of you. (1 Cor 8:3)
- if it becomes a very large thing then man's judgment will dictate what is true and that which you ought to do rather than God.

② "judged of you" > "man's judgment" > ② both judgment of the world (Pro 27:5-6)
• not caring what I think

③ "I judge not mine own self" - doesn't mean he doesn't examine, but judges upon God's Word.

④ "The Lord judges me"

④

- A working principle for Paul

- What says the Lord of him, about him, to do