

- I) V18-23 INTRO: Let no one deceive himself If anyone among you seems to be wise
When last we were together, we concluded with Ch 3:16-17
IN CH 3
- II) Paul contrasted three kinds of teachers, pictured as construction workers
The **Genuine** Teacher, the **Ignorant** Teacher, and the **False** teacher
FIRST
- III) We noted that **genuine teachers** build on the true foundation: Jesus Christ
They do this by teaching solid Bible studies, and by living for Jesus
- IV) This was the counsel Paul gave Timothy to insure the effectiveness of his ministry
1 Ti 4:16 Take heed to **yourself** and to the **doctrine**. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.
- V) This kind of work is fruitful and rewarded by God because **it is grounded in Jesus**
The **genuine teacher** points people to Jesus by teaching God's word
2 Co 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord
- VI) The **second** teacher could be called the **Ignorant Teacher**
They are Christians, but are not teaching **the centrality** of Jesus
- VII) Often, they use the pulpit to teach their own positions and opinions
Often, they teach in a manner that garners attention for themselves or causes
Because they rely on their own crafted image, they draw sheep **after themselves**
- VIII) People don't evaluate their message or stories to see if they are teaching truth
Since the sheep are not taught thoroughly, they lack spiritual discernment
- IX) **Third**: There are **False Teachers** who either impact from the outside, or infiltrate
They are unbelievers, and will be judged because they undermine the faith
2 Pe 2:3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and **their destruction does not slumber**
AS WE CONTINUE
- X) V18 Let **no one deceive himself** If anyone among you **seems to be wise** in this
Seems to be wise, to himself or to others, Let him not **deceive himself**
- XI) This would be a warning to the teacher to not be wise **in his own opinion**
Being wise in your own opinion is the natural fruit of following man's wisdom

- I) It is revealed in the teacher, who trusts in his own learning and experience
It is also revealed in the hearers, who are prompted to select favorite teachers
This results in watered down messages and factions
- II) Our faith is not in the wisdom of men but in the power of God (2:5)
- III) This is a warning to not rely on our own knowledge, strength, and experience
Is 5:21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight
- IV) He would be especially foolish if he began mixing human philosophy with bible
Earthly wisdom is useless for spiritual life
The teacher must remain solidly presenting the **bible truths**
- V) V18 Let him become a fool that he may become wise
Let him become a fool in the sight of the world that he might be truly wise
- VI) Let him be content even though the wise men of the world may degrade him
Let him not seek to be accepted by those who reject Jesus
- VII) Let him be content just knowing Jesus and not trying to impress the world
1 Co 4:10 **We are fools for Christ**, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored!
- VIII) V19 For the wisdom of this world **is foolishness** with God For it is written
Paul combines Job 5:13 with Ps 94:11
- IX) V19 He catches the wise in their own craftiness
No matter how skillful, they cannot **deceive** God: he thwarts their schemes
God turns their deceitful schemes against them and judges them
They cannot devise their own plan of salvation
- X) V19 The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise that they are futile
God knows the thoughts of the heart and the emptiness of their plans
Their plans are corrupt, and they will not result in salvation
- XI) This is because the world **by wisdom cannot know God** (1:21)
POINT

- I) Understand that human wisdom, without God, **is true foolishness**
Why: Because human wisdom is useless for discerning spiritual truth (1 Co 2:14)
- II) In order for us to know **spiritual** truth, **revelation is required**
Jn 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but you know him for he dwells with you and shall be in you
THOUGHT
- III) V21 **Therefore** let not one **boast in men** For all things are yours whether Paul or
Stop arguing over your favorite teachers and let the party spirit go
Genuine teachers exist so that you might grow in your love for Jesus
- IV) This doesn't mean you should not honor faithful teachers, because you should
- V) We recognize ministers as gifts to the Body of Christ, and respect them as such
1 Ti 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of **double honor**, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.
1 Th 5:12-13 We urge you brethren to recognize those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love **for their work's sake**. Be at peace among yourselves.
THE PROBLEM IS
- VI) The Corinthians were dividing over personal styles, personalities, and gifts
The fact is: benefit can occur whoever teaches the Word, faithfully
This means that genuine teachers are **gifts to the church**
NOTICE
- VII) V22b All things are yours
We are all in this together: We belong to Him, completely
These gifted teachers are intended to bring unity and maturity of faith, **to you**
WITH THIS IN MIND
- VIII) Ch 4:1-2 Let a man so consider **us** as **servants of Christ** and stewards of the
Paul now reminds them that ministers are really servants and stewards
This is how he and Apollos, as well as other ministers are to be viewed
IN OUR DAY
- IX) Churches and pastor can be ranked by numbers, finances, influence in the church world, size of staff, community impact, evangelism, missions, church programs, and degrees held by the ministers of those churches
In so doing they create a standard measuring greatness by outward appearances
This contributes to pride in the hearts of ministers and can disqualify them

- I) Paul is reminding them what ministers actually are
Servant: Under rower, the lowest galley slave
The most despised slaves, chained to the oars to serve and die
- II) We are not to be looked at as some form of nobility, but as galley slaves
Christian ministers are menial workers, not pop stars in the church world
JESUS GAVE HIS PERSPECTIVE
- III) Lu 17:7-10 Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, '**We are unworthy servants**; we have only done our duty.'"
- IV) Ministry is not a steppingstone to worldly greatness or ungodly influence
It is humble work of service, of tending for the hurting
- V) V1 They are servants and **stewards** of God's mysteries
Steward: A House manager, supervising someone else's property
- VI) In the church, stewards have four functions
First: They properly manage what belongs to God
All that we possess belongs to God: Our responsibility is to manage it faithfully
Ps. 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
- VII) **Second**: Stewards are to faithfully oversee their master's business
- VIII) **Third**: Stewards may oversee other servants, and do so in a faithful manner
Stewards dispense all of God's gospel, without holding anything back
Ac 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.
- IX) **Fourth**: A steward cared for the children of his master
We are good examples, to encourage and educate younger Christians
1 Ti 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

- I) V2 Moreover it is **required** in stewards that one be found **faithful**
To be a good minister, one must be faithful (filled with faith and integrity)
Pr 20:6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?
- II) After spending time in a study what do you know about **yourself** and **Jesus**?
- III) V3-4 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be **judged by you** or by a
At this point in his letter, Paul begins to address something that is occurring
- IV) People were judging him and his ministry and finding them to be lacking
These charges were instigated by false teachers that had infiltrated the church
- V) One of the tactics the devil uses to undermine ministry is to attack the minister
On one occasion Jesus was invited to a dinner at Matthew's house
- VI) All of his friends were tax collectors and sinners
Mt 9:11 When the Pharisees saw this, **they asked His disciples**, "**Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?**"
- VII) False apostles had entered in and were attacking Paul, and **some were listening**
Their accusations are found in 2nd Co
- VIII) 1:12 He is selfish, hypocritical, and uses fleshly wisdom
1:13 He is not forthright and transparent, using hints and innuendo
1:17 He changes his mind and plans easily
1:21 He is not anointed but is actually only self-appointed
1:24 He lords it over the Church, dominating their faith
2:4 He is an unemotional intellect only, with no love for them
2:5-6 He is legalistic, forcing people to leave the Church
2:17 He uses the gospel for financial gain, insincerely peddling the Word
3:1 He has no ministry credentials: has no letters of commendation
3:5 He is self-sufficient, laboring in the flesh
4:2 He used impure, crafty, deceitful tactics, twisting God's word to trap them
4:5 He preached himself, not Jesus
5:13 He is a madman, beside himself
7:2 He has wronged, corrupted, and defrauded the Church

- I) 8:4 He uses guilt to extort money from people
10:1 When he is with the people of Corinth, he is lowly (cowardly)
10:3 He uses fleshly means to perform spiritual works
10:7 He was judged by his outward appearance (V10)
10:10 He writes weighty letters, but is physically weak and untrained in speech
11:5 He was spiritually inferior of the super apostles in Corinth
11:7 He was not worthy of compensation (1 Co 9:18)
11:22-33 He hasn't earned their respect by any sacrifices or hardships
12:14-16 He is not sacrificial on their behalf because he doesn't really love them
13:10 He is harsh with them and uses a sharp tongue to bully them
IMPORTANT POINT
- II) Paul was not oversensitive
Due to human frailty and flesh, comparisons and criticisms are to be expected
HIS POINT
- III) To be evaluated by man wasn't his concern
It was God's evaluation that mattered most
People never weigh intents or desires of another person's heart: Only God can
ULTIMATELY
- IV) We are accountable first and foremost to God
He alone can judge righteously because He knows all the facts
Ps 139:2-4 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue behold O Lord, You know it all
Jer 17:10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.
- V) With this in mind, we live our lives as purely as we can before our God and man
Ps. 25:21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait for You
- VI) V4 For I know nothing against myself yet I am not justified by this but He who I am not aware of anything that I have done that is wrong or sinful
Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?
- VII) Paul's heart did not accuse him nor excuse him because it could be deceived
Because of this, his trust was in the righteous Judge who knew all things

- I) V4 He who judges me is the Lord
Jn 5:22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son
- II) This is why we examine our own hearts and seek to be pleasing to the Lord
Ps 24:3-5 Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior
- III) V5 Therefore judge nothing before the time **until the Lord comes** who will both
Do not judge someone because you do not have all of the information
You don't know why they have done what they have done
- IV) You do not have all the information, so resist playing the part of the final judge
Jas 4:12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?
We are not and cannot be the final judge: only God can be
CONTEXT
- V) You have heard things about me that are untrue, so stop passing judgment
It always seems to be easier to believe a bad report over a good one
- VI) In the final judgment Jesus will be the Judge, and He knows all things
At this time, he will bring to light the things that remain hidden at this time
He will reveal why things happened in the way they did
- VII) **God** will bring motives to light so stop passing judgment on people's motives
We must do all things unto the glory of God (1 Co 10:31)