

August 21st – God is the Lord of the Harvest

*“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.”*

(1 Cor. 3:5-6)

The Corinthians were well acquainted with both Paul and Apollos. As with many churches, Paul helped plant the church at Corinth, and following his conversion to Christ Apollos was sent to shepherd the new church. The Corinthians had clear admiration for the men who helped form their congregation, but in some cases admiration turned into a point of division. Some who had been impacted by the ministry of Paul begin to swear allegiance to him, while others aligned themselves with Apollos.

Paul had to address the unholy division that had splintered the church. He helped the Corinthians to understand that both he and Apollos were only “ministers through whom you believed.” He wanted to remind them that only God was responsible for their salvation. He used the beautiful analogy of sowing and reaping – “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.” His words remind us that while each minister does his own part, only God is the Lord of the harvest.

The salvation of the lost, the sanctification of the saved, and the planting of churches – all of it happens because our God is the Lord of the harvest. Even the ministers who facilitate salvation and discipleship would not be in their positions if it weren’t for God. We need to keep this in mind – while all of us might have pastors or teachers we prefer to listen to; we need to understand that all of them are just flawed men tending the Lord’s harvest. God alone deserves the glory and the praise!