

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



1 CORINTHIANS 4

¹ Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

² In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. ³ But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. ⁴ For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. ⁵ Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of

STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERIES OF GOD — 1 COR. 4

- A steward is the _____ of someone else's property
 - Who will judge a steward?
- What is this mystery he speaks of?
- Who was trying to judge Paul?
 - How were they trying to judge Paul? By what standard?
- What does he mean, when Paul says he doesn't judge himself?
- Who would be judging Paul?
- What would be considered "trustworthy"?
 - In the parable of the talents (Matt 25:14ff) what was the standard of faithful stewardship?
- What does God see?

men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

⁶ Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other. ⁷ For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

⁸ You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.

⁹ For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's

- How would Philippians 1:14-18 inform what was going on in Corinth?

- What does Paul mean when he says, "...these things I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes?"

- What things?

- For **their** sakes?

- How were the some of the Corinthians "exceeding what was written"? (Isa. 29:14 / Jer. 9:23 / Prov. 6:17)

- _____

- _____

- _____

- What was Paul trying to get across when he asks the three questions in v. 7?

- What figure of speech is Paul using in v. 8?

- Is that Christian?

- When would it be appropriate?

- How did the world view the apostles?

- _____ of all

- _____ to death

- _____ to the world

- What image does this word imply?

- _____

sake, but you are prudent in Christ;
 we are weak, but you are strong; you
 are distinguished, but we are without
 honor. ¹¹ To this present hour we are
 both hungry and thirsty, and are
 poorly clothed, and are roughly
 treated, and are homeless; ¹² and we
 toil, working with our own hands;
 when we are reviled, we bless; when
 we are persecuted, we endure; ¹³
 when we are slandered, we try to
 conciliate; we have become as the
 scum of the world, the dregs of all
 things, even until now.

¹⁴ I do not write these things to
 shame you, but to admonish you as
 my beloved children. ¹⁵ For if you
 were to have countless tutors in
 Christ, yet you would not have many
 fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became
 your father through the gospel.
¹⁶ Therefore I exhort you, be imitators
 of me. ¹⁷ For this reason I have sent to

- _____
- Without _____
- The apostles' lot in life
 - _____
 - _____
 - Poorly _____
 - _____ treated
 - _____
 - Work with their _____
 - Blessing _____
 - Enduring _____
 - _____ with slanderers
 - _____ of the world
 - _____ of all things
- WHY? (4:16)
 - Paul calls himself a "father" to them; does this violate Jesus command to call no man your father? Why or why not?
 - Why is Paul calling upon him to consider him as a father?
 - What is the danger of imitation?
 - What does Paul add to this in 1 Cor. 11:1?

you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church. ¹⁸ Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power. ²¹ What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?

TIMOTHY SENT...

- To remind you of “my” ways (as opposed to...)
- What is taught _____ in _____ church (Pattern)
- Paul’s threat...
 - I will come to you _____
 - What is the power that Paul is referring to here?
 - How? What is implied here?
 - “Shall I come with a _____ or with _____ and a spirit of _____?”