

**the book of
1st
Corinthians
Thursday Morning
Bible Class**

1 Corinthians 3:5-4:7

1

God's Field – 3:5-9

- † 5 – The Corinthians were making too much of their teachers. Paul's questions were not "who", but "what?" Paul and Apollos were merely servants of God.
- † 6 – Each had an assigned task: God used Paul to bring them to faith. He used Apollos to help that faith grow.

2

God's Field – 3:5-9

- † 7 – God gives the growth. The planter nor the waterer get any credit.
- † 8 – The instruments used by God are equal. No one job is more important than another. They will be rewarded on the Last Day.
- † 9 – Fellow laborers doing God's work. The people receive the benefit. They are God's field.

3

God's Building – 3:10-17

- † 10 – Using the analogy of a building, Paul laid the foundation. But then another builds on it. But they should build with care.
- † 11 – Future builders should not lay a different foundation. The doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus is the doctrine on which the church stands or falls.

4

God's Building – 3:10-17

- † 12 – In Paul's analogy, the church needs to be carefully built. Builders can use non-combustible materials, or materials that burn easily.
- † The precious, non-combustible materials are preaching, teaching and pastoral care. They all rest on the Gospel.

5

God's Building – 3:10-17

- † 13 – The quality of each proclaimer will be revealed on the last day. Then it will be judged by God who judges impartially.
- † 14-15 – If the preacher faithfully proclaims the Gospel, he will have his commendation of "Well done" from Christ.
- † 16-17 – The church is like the temple where God dwells. The temple is holy – set apart.

6

No Boasting – 3:18-23

- † 18 – The various groups sprang up from pride in the wisdom of this world. How to handle the problem? Be a fool! Renounce wisdom and thus be open to God's wisdom which is foolishness to the world.
- † 19 – The wisdom of this world seeks to build up self. God has condemned such wisdom as foolishness.

7

No Boasting – 3:18-23

- † 19 – "Catches the wise" (Job 5:13). God traps the wise in their craftiness.
- † 20 – Ps. 94:11 – God's knows how useless man's wisdom really is.
- † 21-23 – In summary, boasting in man's wisdom is contrary to God. We are connected to Christ and have no need for the status of men. We have peace with God.

8

Apostolic Ministry – 4:1-5

- † Paul's defense of his ministry:
- † 1 – Ministers should be regarded as servants of Christ, and ultimately accountable only to Him.
- † Also, they are "stewards" of the mysteries of God, laborers entrusted with the mystery of God's wisdom – the truth of Jesus Christ.

9

Apostolic Ministry – 4:1-5

- † **“Steward” (*oikonomos*) – literally “house lawyer”. The chief slave who oversaw the master’s household. As God’s stewards, they had been given the “mystery” of the Gospel. Paul preached the mystery of Christ crucified with human eloquence of wisdom.**
- † **The mystery of the Gospel is God’s plan of salvation, set up before the world began.**

10

Apostolic Ministry – 4:1-5

- † **2 – Such stewards must remember that they are responsible to God for how they do their job.**
- † **3 – Thus any assessment of his ministry by human beings was quite insignificant. God is the judge. Paul does not even judge himself.**

11

Apostolic Ministry – 4:1-5

- † **4 – Paul is not aware of anything he has done that would be contrary to his performance as a steward of God. But God will be the judge.**
- † **5 – So, neither should they pass judgement on any preacher. On the Last Day, God will judge.**

12

Let the Word Guide – 4:6-7

- † 6 – “These things” – goes back to 3:5. What is true for Paul and Apollos is also true for all Corinthian Christians. They should not be “puffed up” in favor of one over the other.
- † 7 – If there is no difference from one another, there is no ground for boasting. Whatever we have is a gift from God.
