

1 Corinthians 3

The Servants of God

Having talked about the message they preached, Paul now discusses their roles as preachers. Division among their favorite preachers was creating a problem.

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³ for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not *mere* men?

⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.



1. The Spiritual Atmosphere at Corinth was not good (1-4)

- they had to have _____ (Heb 6:1-2)
- they were _____ & _____ (Gal 5:20)
- they were _____ (4)

Over something good, something bad happened

- Why were they enamored with preachers?
- Jealousy over preachers creates what problems?
- Strife means what?
- What do we know about Apollos?

2. What are preachers (5-9)

- they are s _____ (5)

- What is the criteria to be a preacher?
- Are preachers ordained?

The topic switches from agriculture to architecture

- they work t _____ (6, 10-15)
- they are n _____ (7)

The Life of an Apostle (4:9-14)

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Men condemned to _____ | R _____ treated |
| H _____ & t _____ | H _____ |
| P _____ clothed | S _____ of the world |

- they are _____ (8)
- God is the action
 - God gave _____ (5)
 - God causes _____ (7)
 - God works _____ them (9)

- do not _____ in them (21)
- faith in men will not _____ (15)

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

¹⁸ Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "*He is the one who catches the wise in their craftiness*"; ²⁰ and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS." ²¹ So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, ²³ and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

3. You are the Temple of God (16-17) - not the same as 1 Cor 6:19

Within the temple:

Priests (1 Pet 2:9)

Offer sacrifices (1 Pet 2:5; Rom 12:1)

Atmosphere of holiness (1 Cor 3:17, 1 Pet 1:15)

- destroy this temple moves God to destroy you (17)

- How would the Corinthians destroy the temple of God?

Additional Thoughts:

- When Paul says in vs. 4, "are you not mere men?" this was stated in the negative. What should they have been?
- What makes a man's work "remain" (14)?
- Other than boasting in men, what are other things people may boast in (21)?

