

Right Now Counts Forever  
I Cor. 3:5-4:5

Introduction

Paul has written to the Church at Corinth to remind and reprimand them in their confusion between the message and the messenger of the gospel. They had formed alliances and forged movements among men. Paul opened his letter with a word of encouragement calling them saints. He then exhorted them as to the foolishness of their divisive behavior. He is now engaged in educating them concerning the difference between style and substance in their understanding of the savior and the message of the crucified Christ.

The remedy for the Corinthians misconception regarding the messengers of God is the clear teaching that they are servants of God accountable to Christ

- I. The Messengers of God Are Instruments/Servants He uses in Accomplishing His Work 3:5-9**
- II. The Messengers of God are Accountable to Him with Regard to How They Act 3:10-17**
  - A. The Wise Messenger of God will Receive a Reward 3:10-14
  - B. The Unwise Messenger Will Forfeit his Reward 3:15
  - C. The Destructive Messenger Will Be Destroyed 3:16-17
- III. The Messengers of God Must Not Be Self-Deluded or the Objects of Human Boasting 3:18-23**
  - A. The Messengers of God Must Not Be Deluded by Wisdom of the Age 3:18-20
  - B. The Messengers of God Must Not Be the Objects of Human Boasting 3:21-23
- IV. The Messengers of God are to be Faithful Servants as Evaluated by the Standards of God and of Men 4:1-5**
  - A. The Reality of the Servant 4:1-4
  - B. The Request of Paul and the Result for the Servant 4:5

**PAT. How are you thinking about 2022?**

Who do you work for?

How do you view your work?

Do you know what work you are engaged in?

Do you know why you are working?