

JUDGE NOTHING BEFORE THE TIME
I COR. 4:1-6

Introduction:

- A. There are two wrong ideas about judging.
 - 1. No judgment.
 - 2. Over judgment.

- B. Paul knew his ministry would be judged.
 - 1. How should this be done?
 - 2. With what shall we compare the ministry?

I. THE TWO COMPARATIVE PROFESSIONS. V1,2

- A. "let a man so account of us."
 - 1. account = logizomai - to put together an account, to count, to value, to put together.
 - 2. If a man wants to compare us, to evaluate us, to learn what we are to be....

- B. "as the ministers of Christ."
 - 1. ministers = huperetes - an under-rower, or a common sailor, as distinguished from nautai, a sea man, "on epibatai" = mariners. Hence a hand, any subordinate acting under the direction of another. (An attendant in a synagogue.)
 - 2. We are subordinate to Christ, not the church.
 - 3. "subordinate, to Christ."

- C. "and stewards of the mysteries of God."
 - 1. stewards = oikonomos - a house manager, one who had authority over the servants of a family, assigning their tasks, and generally managing the affairs and accounts of the family.
 - 2. mystery = the secret of a friend.
 - 3. "and managers authorized to distribute the secret truths of God."

- D. How do you judge a steward?
1. v2.
 2. faithful = trusty, worthy of confidence, to be trusted.
 3. There are two ways to judge church attendance.
 - a. How many times they came. (unfaithful)
 - b. How many times they missed. (faithful)

II. PAUL'S THOUGHTS ABOUT OTHERS JUDGMENT OF HIM. .

- A. "for it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you."
1. small = elachistos - the least, not "mikros" small, not "oligos" little, superlative.
 2. Judged = anakrino - intense investigation.
- B. "or of man's judgment."
1. judgment = hemera = day, the day or time of man's judgment in opposition to the "lords day."
 2. I Cor. 3:13.
- C. "yea, I judge not mine own self."
1. I do not trust my own judgment in this matter.
 2. It is difficult to correctly judge oneself.
- D. "for I know nothing by myself."
1. My conscience does not, in fact, reproach me.
 2. Warped or seared conscience can give a wrong reading
- E. "yet am I not hereby justified."
1. Justified = to justify by a judicial act.
 2. This does not prove I am innocent.
- F. "but he that judgeth me is the Lord."
1. The Lord is the judge at the final judgment.
 2. Absolute truth, represented by "fire" will try every man's work, of what sort it is.
 3. sort = or kind, more than quantity.

III. THE TIME WILL COME FOR TRUE JUDGMENT.

- A. "therefore judge nothing before the time."
 - 1. What is, "the time?"
 - 2. "until the Lord comes."

- B. The two things in judging that only Jesus can do.
 - 1. "who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness."
 - a. For He will light up the darkness that now hides things.
 - 2. "and will make manifest the counsels of the heart."
 - a. manifest = to make visible.
 - b. counsels = will, purpose, plans, design.

- C. The righteous Judge will judge righteously.
 - 1. "and then shall every man have praise of God."
 - 2. And then everyone will receive the praise due him.
 - 3. I'm not being noticed enough, Wait!

IV. THE REASON PAUL WROTE THESE TRUTHS. V6

- A. "And these things, brethren, I have transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes;"
 - 1. transferred = metaschematizo - to change the outward figure, to transfer a thing in its application, to transfer the thoughts as to one object to another which is an image of it.
 - 2. I have used myself and Apollos above as illustrations.

- B. The truth declared.
 - 1. "that ye might learn in us not to think of men above what is written."
 - 2. So that ye might learn from us not to go beyond the scriptures.

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3. "that no one of you be puffed up for one against another."

a. So you may not be arrogant champions of one teacher against another.

b. puff = to inflate.

C. Don't judge before the time.

1. Can't pick out crowns before that day.