

## 1 Corinthians 4

King James Version (KJV)

**4** Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. (A steward's job is to conserve and protect – in this case, the Word of God – unchanged, down through the generations)

NOTE: (These mysteries of God are all articulated in the Bible. The problem is that most Christians have never studied the Bible. They sit in church on Sunday and listen to a sermon written by the preacher; instead of reading and learning God's Word from the Bible – chapter by chapter, verse by verse. Most Christians today are Biblically illiterate)

Amos-8:11-12 (Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it)

<sup>2</sup>Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. (A steward is a trusted caretaker. In this case, he must remain faithful to God, not some church. He must teach the Word of God, taught chapter by chapter, verse by verse; not the doctrines of "denominations", or the sermons written by men)

<sup>3</sup>But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. (Prove yourself worthy to be judged and approved by God. Ignore the judgments of men. Men's judgments are irrelevant because they are based on our own biases)

Matthew-7:3-5 (They judge the spec in their neighbor's eye; but ignore the beam that is in their own eye)

<sup>4</sup>For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. (By himself, Paul was a persecutor of the church. But by God, he became one of the greatest Bible teachers that ever lived)

<sup>5</sup>Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. (Don't ever judge people. They can change for better or for worse over the years. Only God knows what they are thinking. Only God knows how they will turn out. HE will judge them at that time)

<sup>6</sup>And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. (Don't elevate one preacher over another; or any of them above the Word of God)

(Denominations bring conflict and strife. They divide people according to some men's interpretation of God's Word. Don't interpret the Word of God. Teach it fully and unchanged – the way that God wants it taught. The devil loves division. He uses it very well to distract people from learning what God says)

<sup>7</sup>For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? (God gave us everything that we receive in understanding His Word. All we need to know concerning salvation is written in His Word. Jesus said – behold, I have foretold you all things) Mark-13:23

<sup>8</sup>Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you. (Preachers think that they can reign over the people. They get rich from the tithes, while they preach nonsensical sermons. They are worse than the heathen who practice idolatry)

<sup>9</sup>For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. (A true preacher is the servant of his ministry and of God. He is not the ruler of either)

<sup>10</sup>We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. (This was

said in irony by Paul; about false, rich preachers who teach traditions of men. They beg for money and then keep it for themselves. They live in luxury at the expense of their own parishioners)

NOTE: (The truth is that the world regarded the apostles as weak fools. Yet they were strong in the power of God. That's what matters)

<sup>11</sup> Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; (naked = not well dressed – better translation)

(They were traveling from city to city to teach the Word of God to people. They didn't live in luxury)

<sup>12</sup> And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: (They were persecuted by the religious community; because they were converting people to Christianity. The synagogues were losing membership and tithes. Paul earned his living as a tent maker, not on tithes)

<sup>13</sup> Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. (The world hates true Christians. They slander us at every opportunity)

<sup>14</sup> I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. (Do not be greedy and get rich from tithes. Corrupt preachers will be shamed by God on judgment day. People will know you as a crooked money grubber. Serve the people that attend your church and do not be tempted by their money)

<sup>15</sup> For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. (Follow the Bible, chapter by chapter, verse by verse. Ignore the self appointed authorities of God's Word. Jesus said – Behold, I have told you all things) Mark-13:23

<sup>16</sup> Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. (Imitate Paul – better translation)

(Paul didn't teach for money. In fact, he kept no money for himself. He lived by being a tentmaker, not some begging preacher)

(Therefore he taught the Word of God, unchanged; unlike these other rich preachers who just tell people what they want to hear. They do it to increase the membership and the tithes)

<sup>17</sup>For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church. (Paul taught the Word of God, unchanged and “un-enhanced”; chapter by chapter, verse by verse) See Revelation-22:18-19

<sup>18</sup>Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you. (These are preachers with run-away egos. They purport to be “prophets”. Their false teachings do more harm than good. They lead people astray; away from the true meaning in God’s Word)

<sup>19</sup>But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. (They will know the power of God and receive His blessings if they learn the true Word of God; and not the doctrines of men)

<sup>20</sup>For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. (Talk is cheap) (God is almighty. No one can prevail over God) Luke-10:19

<sup>21</sup>What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness? (Paul is dressing down the false preachers who make themselves rich by teaching traditions of men, instead of the true Word of God)