

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 12

Ministers and Stewards (1 Cor. 4:1-7), Founding the Corinthian Church (Acts 18)

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Verse 1 **Accounting of men:** Don't compare men with other men (2 Cor. 10:12, Luke 18:11); judge whether a man is a minister of Jesus Christ and a faithful steward; being faithful with the things the Lord has entrusted to him. Is he faithfully distributing those things? (See Joseph in Genesis 41:33-41).

We hold God's truth (it belongs to Him). Are we handling it responsibly and faithfully? (Mt. 14:19). Don't take credit for delivering what God gave you to distribute (vs. 7).

Verse 2 You don't have to be strong, brave, or an eloquent speaker (1 Cor. 2:3-4), but as a steward of God, it is required that you be faithful.

Verses 3-4 You might judge a man (as you should), but your judgment will be flawed. You don't have all the information that the Lord has. His judgment will be perfect. If you read the Bible (**for I know nothing by myself**, vs. 4), you'll know what is right, so when someone judges you to be wrong, you can stand on the solid ground of the word of God and dismiss any wrong judgments. Let God be the judge of what's right or wrong; not your feelings (1 John 3:20).

THE FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH AT CORINTH (ACTS CHAPTER 18:1-17)

Paul, the Tentmaker: (vs. 4) Paul worked to support himself and his ministry. Today, people consider a minister who works a job to be an amateur and less spiritual than a so-called "fulltime minister." Many ministers today consider themselves "*too holy*" to work a secular job.

Paul Encouraged: (vs. 5) this verse shows the importance of Christian fellowship. In the presence of his companions, Paul's spirit was moved to proclaim the gospel.

True Evangelism: (vs. 11) So-called evangelists today visit churches full of saved people and preach for a week in the church. A biblical evangelist spent many months, sometimes years, in a city preaching to lost people and establishing believers.

Jewish Opposition: (vs. 6) The gospel went to the Jews first (Rom. 1:16), but when they rejected it, Paul turned to the Gentiles. That doesn't mean there were not individual cases of Jewish believers, such as Aquila and Priscilla (vs. 2, 1 Cor. 16:19) and Crispus (vs. 8), and Sosthenes (vs 17, 1 Cor. 1:1).

Divine Protection: (vs. 10) God promised Paul that no man would hurt him in Corinth. Paul needed to stand on that promise even when it looked like he was in danger (vs. 12).

THE FALSE DOCTRINE OF THE “GRACERS”

The “Grace church” foundation: “The only truth for today is what Paul wrote while he was in prison just before his death.” (Ephesians, Colossians, part of Galatians).

Grace Church practices:	Water baptism:	not necessary.
	Lord’s Supper:	not necessary.
	Witnessing:	not necessary.
	Repentance from sin:	not necessary (the Lord’s grace covers it).

Gracers Key Passage against Water Baptism: First Corinthians 1:13-17

Verse 14: “I thank God that I baptized none of you...” The rest of the verse is ignored, where Paul tells us who he baptized.

Verse 15: “Lest any should say that I had baptized...” The rest of the verse is ignored, where Paul gave his reason: The Corinthians would have honored Paul above measure.

Verse 16: Paul struggles to remember who he had baptized in Corinth. It’s difficult to remember every individual when you’re baptizing people everywhere you go.

Verse 17: “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel.” Gracers interpret this to mean that we’re not supposed to baptize; we’re only supposed to preach the gospel.

Everyone who got baptized in the Bible did so as a result of hearing the gospel preached, believing what they heard, and receiving Jesus Christ (Ethiopian eunuch, Cornelius and his house, the Corinthians, etc.). Baptism is the expected response after salvation.

Paul taught, practiced, and approved of water baptism. He may not have personally dunked every believer, but he certainly oversaw the operation as other men performed the ordinance under his authority (Acts 18:8). Jesus established this practice (John 4:1-3).

Bible Accuracy: Acts 18:12 speaks of “Gallio...the deputy of Achaia.” This was a very brief period in human history when Rome authorized the province of Achaia to have its own deputy. It happened to be the time when Paul was in Corinth. Secular history agrees with the Bible.

1 Corinthians 4:5 When the Lord comes (after the Judgment Seat), every man shall receive praise from Him.
