

Meditations on the Message

Sunday: January 31, 2016; *Servants & Stewards*

Text: **1 Corinthians 4:1-7**

Re-read the above text and consider the following thoughts and questions:

Paul and Apollos were renowned preachers in their day. The members of the church in Corinth were promoting them and giving them positions of prominence. Paul sought to correct their thinking concerning themselves and their ministry.

How did Paul correct and direct their thinking concerning himself and Apollos? (see 1 Cor. 4:1)

How does that instruction influence our thoughts and attitude toward our favorite preacher(s) today?

Paul said that he and Apollos were “*stewards of the mysteries of God*” (4:1). He said that through his service, the Corinthians came to believe (3:5).

What “*mystery*” did Paul make known? (See: 2:1-5; 1:22-24; 1:17-18; 1:1-2)

How does a faithful preacher serve God and His church by “*stewarding*” the message of the cross?

Faithful *servants* and *stewards* are humble and trustworthy. They are under authority (servants), and they are given authority (stewards).

How does humble authority reflect itself? (See 1 Peter 5:1-5)

Servants and stewards are responsible and accountable to the one they serve. How should accountability to God be reflected in their service and stewardship?

How should a preacher’s ministry not “*go beyond what is written*”? ...and how does that effect church members not becoming “puffed up in favor of one against another”?

Considering the message of the above text (1 Cor. 4:1-7); how does Paul’s message to the Corinthians of his day influence your thoughts, attitudes and actions today? What is the greatest lesson of the text to you?