



GOD'S BUILDERS

“Stewards,
Spectacles And
Fools For Christ”

1 Corinthians 4:1-21

GOD'S BUILDERS —

“Stewards, Spectacles And Fools For Christ”

1 Corinthians 4:1-21 (NKJV)

¹ Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

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1 Corinthians 4:1-21 (NKJV)

⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. ⁶ Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

GOD'S BUILDERS —

“Stewards, Spectacles And Fools For Christ”

1 Corinthians 4:1-21 (NKJV)

⁷ For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*? ⁸ You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us--and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!

GOD'S BUILDERS —

“Stewards, Spectacles And Fools For Christ”

1 Corinthians 4:1-21 (NKJV)

⁹ For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. ¹⁰ *We are* fools for Christ's sake, but *you are* wise in Christ! *We are* weak, but *you are* strong! *You are* distinguished, but *we are* dishonored! ¹¹ To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.

GOD'S BUILDERS —

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1 Corinthians 4:1-21 (NKJV)

¹² And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; ¹³ being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. ¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you.

GOD'S BUILDERS —

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1 Corinthians 4:1-21 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. ¹⁶ Therefore I urge you, imitate me. ¹⁷ For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

GOD'S BUILDERS —

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1 Corinthians 4:1-21 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. ²¹ What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

GOD'S BUILDERS

Servants & Stewards of Christ - (4:1-5)



1 Corinthians 4:1
(NKJV)

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

- ♦ **Servant** - (*hypēretas*) differs from that used in 3:5 (*diakonoi*) and stresses subordination and responsibility to a superior.
- ♦ **Steward** – denoted "the manager of a household or estate" (*oikos*, "a house," *nemo*, "to arrange"), (Luke 12:42; Luke 16:1, 3, 8; Gal. 4:2)
- ♦ **Required of stewards to be faithful** - (4:2; Luke 16:1-12; Mat. 25:)

GOD'S BUILDERS

Servants & Stewards of Christ - (4:1-5)



1 Corinthians 4:1
(NKJV)

¹ Let a man so
consider us, as
servants of Christ
and stewards of the
mysteries of God.

- ♦ **Stewards of the Mysteries** – The mission of the servants of Christ and stewards of the mystery was to faithfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ – (4:1; 2:7; Eph. 1:9; 3:3-9; Col. 1:26,27; 2 Tim 4:2).
- ♦ **To apply** – Too many “preachers” today are searching for some new gimmick, scheme or method to draw people to Christ – ????????

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Servants & Stewards of Christ - (4:1-5)



1 Corinthians 4:1
(NKJV)

¹ Let a man so
consider us, as
servants of Christ
and stewards of the
mysteries of God.

- ♦ **The court of human opinion** – 4:3 –
Men will not judge the servants and
stewards of Christ. – (cf. 2:15; 3:13;
John 7:24)
- ♦ **The court of the conscience** – 4:3 –
even a pure conscience does not
guarantee righteousness before God
– (1 Sam. 16:7)
- ♦ **The judgment seat of Christ** –
(4:4,5; cf 3:13; 2 Cor. 5:10;)

GOD'S BUILDERS

Paul Rebukes Their Boasting - (4:6-8)

1 Corinthians 4:6 (NKJV)

⁶Now these things,
brethren, I have
figuratively transferred to
myself and Apollos for
your sakes, that you may
learn in us not to think
beyond what is written,
that none of you may be
puffed up on behalf of one
against the other.

- ♦ **Paul uses himself and Apollos as examples** – 4:6 – “*that you may learn in us*” the lesson of humility – (cf. 3:4-7; 2 Cor. 10:12; Jer. 17:5,6; Mat. 23:8-10; Rom 12:3)
- ♦ **The exaltation of the word** – 4:6 – All scripture, including what Paul was writing – (cf. 4:14; 14:37; Col. 4:16; 2 Pet. 3:15,16; 2 Tim 3:16,17)

GOD'S BUILDERS

Paul Rebukes Their Boasting - (4:6-8)



1 Corinthians 4:7
(NKJV)

7 For who makes you
differ *from another*?
And what do you have
that you did not
receive? Now if you did
indeed receive *it*, why
do you boast as if you
had not received *it*?

- ✦ **What you have is NOT of yourself – (4:7; 7:7; 12:4-11; 15:10; Rom 12:6; 1 Pet 4:10)**
- ✦ **It's not how we compare to other men that matters, but how we measure up to the standard of Jesus.**
- ✦ **If we're nothing, and you believed in what we taught, what does that make you?**

GOD'S BUILDERS

Paul Rebukes Their Boasting - (4:6-8)



1 Corinthians 4:8 (NKJV)

⁸ You are already full!
You are already rich! You
have reigned as kings
without us--and indeed
I could wish you did
reign, that we also might
reign with you!

- ♦ **“Sarcasm alert”** – (*You are full, rich and kings* - 4:8; Prov. 13:7; Isa. 5:21; Gal. 6:3; Rev 3:17)
- ♦ **In at most four years, they had decided that they didn't need anyone else!**
- ♦ **If they were what they thought – Paul would readily join them – but they were not**
– (2:14; 3:1,2)

GOD'S BUILDERS

Spectacles & Fools - (4:9-13)



1 Corinthians 4:9 (NKJV)

⁹ For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

- ✦ **“Displayed us”** – *to expose to view or exhibit, i.e. gladiatorial - Paul and apostles come last as a grand finale - (1 Cor. 15:32)*
- ✦ **“Spectacle”** – *theatron - "metaphorically, a man who is exhibited to be gazed at and made sport of" - (Heb. 11:33-40)*
- ✦ **The apostles were humiliated before all created beings -**

GOD'S BUILDERS

Spectacles & Fools - (4:9-13)

1 Corinthians 4:10-11
(NKJV)

¹⁰ We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but you *are* wise in Christ! We *are* weak, but you *are* strong! You *are* distinguished, but we *are* dishonored! ¹¹ To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.

- ♦ **Viewed by carnal men as fools** – (4:10; 1:18-20; 2:14; 3:18)
- ♦ **More irony and sarcasm** – *Who is really weak and dishonored?* (4:10)
- ♦ **The apostles were suffering just as Jesus said** – (4:11; Mat. 10:22-25; Acts 9:16; 2 Cor. 4:7-18; 11:22-33)

GOD'S BUILDERS

Spectacles & Fools - (4:9-13)

1 Corinthians 4:12-13
(NKJV)

¹² And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; ¹³ being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

- ✦ **Not many preachers today have endured what the apostles did-** (4:12,13; 1 Thes. 2:9; 2 Ths 3:7-8; 1 Tim 4:10)
- ✦ **Being mistreated – they provided the world with the knowledge of its greatest blessing** – (4:12,13; Rom 12:14; 1 Pet 3:9)

God's BUILDERS

Paul's Paternal Care - (4:14-21)



1 Corinthians 4:14
(NKJV)

¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you.

- ♦ **A fatherly admonition to beloved children** - (4:14; 2 Cor. 6:11-13; 12:14,15; 1 Thes 2:11)
- ♦ **Many instructors** - (Apollos, Cephas, etc.)
- ♦ **The Corinthians were begotten in Christ, by Paul, through the gospel** - (4:15; 3:6,10; 9:1,2; Acts 18:4-11; James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:22,23)

God's BUILDERS

Paul's Paternal Care - (4:14-21)



1 Corinthians 4:14
(NKJV)

¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you.

- ♦ **Imitate Paul as he imitated Christ** - (4:16; 11:1; *Phili 3:17; 1 Thes 1:6; 2 Thes 3:9; Heb. 13:7*)
- ♦ **Paul taught the same thing in every church** - (4:17; 14:33; *destroys denominational concept*)
- ♦ **Paul hopes to come to them again in the future** - *They would choose how he dealt with them (4:18-21; 2 Cor. 13:1-4)*

GOD'S BUILDERS

**Servants & Stewards
of Christ - (4:1-5)**

**Paul Rebukes Their
Boasting - (4:6-8)**

**Exhibits, Spectacles &
Fools - (4:9-13)**

**Paul's Paternal Care -
(4:14-21)**

1 Corinthians 4:1-21

God's BUILDERS

Charts by Don McClain

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West 65th Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using PPT 2010 -

Email - donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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