

I Corinthians 3: 1-8 Corinth; we have a problem! 10/20/2024

These Corinthian believers lived in an area known as a cesspool of immorality, arrogance, and materialism. A society that worshiped youth, possessions, idols, false gods; lovers of themselves.

The worship of personalities was a particular problem. A belief that by associating with power, one would share that power.

Ex. "Cult of Personality" LIVING COLOR

Question: When you get saved, how much changes and how much stays the same?

Ex. The five-mile walk. The power of the old life has been cut, but you have choose to live in the new life. If you really are a believer, the old life makes you miserable!

Review: I Cor. 1:18-2:8, 14

The Corinthians could so easily go back to their default, non-thinking position of the flesh; the carnal; the worldly.

TEXT INTRO: Paul will use two analogies to show them how to continue to be transformed in their new life in Christ. "God's Plants"(3:1-9) and "God's Buildings."(3:10-23)

Text: 3:1-9 *****

2:6 What is God looking for in us? Functional maturity while we are here on earth.

The Corinthians had the equipment, the potential, to move toward maturity but they did not show much of the mind of Christ. 2:16

3:1-3 When he first came to Corinth(Acts 18) he preached the gospel only; he laid a foundation. He, and Apollos (Acts 19), and others worked for 18 months breaking up and planting this hard ground of a demonic secularism. Their growth was retarded by carnality. They were acting like "one-nature men."

3:1 "Men of flesh," meaning a worldly person who does not know God or experience the power of the new life in Christ.

3:2 "even now"- For Americans, we try to fit the gospel into our false, self-focused lives.

You cannot fit Jesus into your pre-existing plans! He must be Lord of all! He has the plan for your life; the blueprint, custom made for you.

Unbelievers- Men of flesh- natural men- one nature men. Those who only see things horizontally; moving from circumstance to circumstance without knowing why; judging by the spirit of the age; thinking emotions make something true; self-focused; self-centered; self-glorifying. All this can be done overtly or with great subtlety.

Believers in Christ- They start out as babies in the faith. Nothing wrong with being a baby, unless you stay too long!

Ex. 1 Peter 2:2 “,, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, so that you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”

The saved person who barely grew, or got slowed down along the way; gets stuck in the misery of the carnal life, becomes a danger to himself and others.

Ex. Cartoon- Baby Huey- Created in 1950- An physically mature duck but a baby brain. The fox was always trying to eat him. Huey broke everything he touched.

Ex. Hebrews 5: 11- 6:2 Another church that was immature.

Question: So what is the goal?

Ephesians 4: 12-16 A life of depth, and steady joy, and daily peace. A life not run by just what you see, and just by what you feel, or lusting for some illusionary set of circumstances. The power of a future kingdom working in present time!

Question: So how do we grow?

Like the plant illustration you need good soil, water, sunshine on a regular bases. You may have wonderful growth spurts alone the way by steady attention to the Word of God turns us into mighty saints!

Study of God’s word; prayer; fellowship; witnessing.

Final: Hebrews 12:1-2 Greek- Anti -“ Instead of” the joy He already had, went to the cross for you and me.

We get tangled up because we do not carefully place our feet on the path before us.

Live joyfully and carefully.