

# LET A MAN SO ACCOUNT

## 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-9

Text:

Introduction:

As the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, the Holy Spirit is dealing with the sinful and carnal practices in the church. One such practice was their divisiveness over spiritual leaders. Rather than appreciating and benefiting from the contribution of Paul or Apollos or Peter, these believers were polarizing around one of the leaders and not appreciating the others whom God had placed in their ministry.

So Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:4 "For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?"

Paul begins chapter 4 with an attempt to set the record straight about himself and other leaders who were in their midst. "Let a man so account of us..." or "Let us get this back into perspective. Let us have a time of reckoning. Let us take an account of what a spiritual leader is, what a godly Christian is.

From time to time we need to put our own analysis aside, get back to the Bible and tell God, "I want to take an account according to Your Book. I want to see what

You have to say about being a godly Christian.

Paul says, "Put aside your petty preferences and those things that are polarizing and dividing you and get a hold of what God says is real spiritual leadership."

God is telling us in this passage to take an account of what it means to be a godly Christian.

Man's analysis has never met the need in fundamentalism or in our local churches, and it certainly doesn't do it now. God tells us what is right and wrong and where we need to go in our lives.

Paul makes an analysis of his own life. He lays it before us. There are things here for our benefit.

Notice:

## **1. PAUL'S COMMISSION**

### **A. Commissioned to be a servant**

(1 Cor 4:1 KJV) "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God."

(Mark 10:45 KJV) "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

## B. Commissioned to be a steward

(1 Cor 4:1 KJV) "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God."

The word steward means to manage the affairs of another

### 1. The mysteries of God

(1 Tim 3:16 KJV) "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

2. Paul was a steward of all of that.

3. We too have the same commission.

a. We are not being sent to preach psychology.

(Acts 20:20 KJV) "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,"

b. We are not being sent to survey the community.

4. The requirements of a steward.

(1 Cor 4:2 KJV) "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

Illustration: Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

## **2. PAUL'S CONCERN**

(1 Cor 4:3 KJV) "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."

A. Was not man's approval

B. Was not self approval

(1 Cor 4:4 KJV) "For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord."

C. Was God's approval

(1 Cor 4:4-5 KJV) "For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. {5} 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."

### **3. PAUL'S COMMITMENT**

(1 Cor 4:6 KJV) "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."

#### **A. To glorify God**

(1 Cor 4:9 KJV) "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."

##### **1. In suffering.**

(1 Cor 4:9 KJV) "... for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men."

a. Plenty of Christians and Churches want is in verse 8, but there is more to it than that.

(1 Cor 4:8 KJV) "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."

b. Paul was committed to giving himself.

## 2. In soul winning

(1 Cor 4:15 KJV) "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."

- God has put us in the midst of millions of people. He wants us to keep them out of Hell.

Close:

We too need to take an account. Paul said, "You want to size up Appolos and Peter, and you want to size me up. Let me tell you how to take an itemized account. First, I'm commissioned to be a faithful steward. Judge me by that criteria. Second, I'm concerned, not with your approval, but with God's approval. Third, I'm

committed to being faithful as a soul winner, to bring glory to God.”

Will you ask the Holy Spirit to open up your heart right now so that you can take an account? Why don't we ask, “God, how am I doing with my commission? Am I being faithful in getting out the Word? Do I get more concerned about what someone else thinks than about what You think? And, Lord, how am I doing with my commitment to bringing others to Christ?”

Let the Holy Spirit do an inventory. Let Him come in and do an audit of your heart. Then what should not be there, put on the altar. And what should be there, put back in your heart for the glory of God.