

# Faithful Stewards

## I Cor. 4:1-5

### Introduction:

- A. We are "servants *of Christ* and stewards of the mysteries *of God*."
  - 1. "Servant" = servants in general.
    - a. *Huperetes* - an under oarsman or subordinate. (text)
    - b. *Doulos* - a slave (Rom. 6:17ff)
    - c. *Diakonos* - Errand runner or table waiter.
    - d. *Leitourgos* - Attendant, especially in the temple.
    - e. *Oiketes* - a menial domestic.
  - 2. "Steward" = special kind of servant, manager of house or estate.
    - a. Applied preachers like Paul. (Text)
    - b. Applied to elders. (Tit. 1:7)
    - c. Applied to all Christians. (1 Pet. 4:10)
- B. We must be judged faithful by *Him*.
  - 1. The Lord may not require perfection, but he does require faithfulness.
  - 2. So, it matters little how men judge us - either ourselves or others. (vs. 3-4).
- C. The Lord makes *three requirements* of all of us:

### Discussion:

#### I. We must Become His Servants.

- A. All are servants *someone or something* (Rom.6:16).
  - 1. Sin? (Rom. 6:17-23)
  - 2. Men? (Gal. 1:10; 1 Cor. 7:23).
  - 3. Mammon or Money (NIV)? (Matt. 6:24)
  - 4. Or, God. (1 Cor. 4:1).
- B. All must become *Lord's* servants.
  - 1. By obeying gospel from the heart. (Rom. 6:17).
  - 2. By being buried in baptism. (Rom. 6:1-14)

#### II. We must Be Faithful Servants.

- A. Faithfulness means to be "trusted, reliable" (Vine)
  - 1. God is faithful. (1 Cor. 1:9; 10:13).
  - 2. Christ is faithful. (Heb. 2:17).
- B. Faithfulness is the opposite of laziness and neglect. (Matt. 25:23,26).
  - 1. "Good" vs. "wicked" - "Faithful" vs "lazy".
  - 2. May not have been lazy in everything, but in area of his stewardship.
- C. Faithfulness involves two important areas:
  - 1. One must be *accurate* in his service.
  - 2. One must be *diligent* in his service.

#### III. We must Be "Faithful in All Things" (Cf. 1 Tim. 3:11).

- A. One cannot select areas of faithfulness. (Luke 16:10; Matt. 23:23).
- B. One must be a faithful servant or steward all areas:
  - 1. In doctrine. (Tit. 2:7).
  - 2. In attendance, worship, and edification. (Heb. 10:25-29). - Ill. Pres. Garfield's example.
  - 3. In daily lifestyle. (I Cor. 6:1-11).
  - 4. In the "mysteries of God" - Gospel. (cf. 1 Cor. 2:6-8; Eph. 3:1-12).
    - a. Carry it to all men. (Matt. 28:18-20).
    - b. Do not waste it on some men. (Matt. 7:6; Matt. 10:14; Acts 13:46,51).

### Conclusion:

- A. Whose servant are you?
- B. How faithful are you?