Bible Study 55

# August 31, 2022

 1 Corinthians (continued)

Paul’s disappointment with the Corinthians comes through in Chapter 3 where he admonishes them for their foolishness. He states that from the beginning he only fed them milk and not solid food because like babies they were not yet ready for it.

The arguments and divisions among them as to who follows Paul, Apollos or Cephas fills him with despair. Again, he tells them that they must be centered on Christ as the only voice and only savior. His despair arises because he had made clear to them from the beginning that it was not the messenger that was important but rather the message of salvation to be found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Here is a difference Paul claims between the ‘foolishness’ of man and the wisdom of God. Somehow Corinthians must grow quickly into that mature Christian that is focused on Christ only. Paul speaks of being ‘fools for Christ.’ It is a phrase that he loves to use to explain that neither he, Peter or Apollos are in this for money or gain. In fact many laugh at him for throwing his life away following a useless Nazarene who died a pitiful death on a cross.

Paul explains what he means by ‘fools for Christ.’ He contrasts himself and the Apostles with the wealth of any man, especially the merchants and business people. He lists the ‘cost of discipleship’: no home, wearing rags, poorer than the poor. All of the pleasures and gifts of success could have been his, if only they had chosen another way. But they chose Christ and crucified him.

“You are honored, we are dishonored! We are weak but you are strong! We are cursed but we bless! We are persecuted, imprisoned, insulted, slandered. We are the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.”

It is a warning to the Corinthians. Be ready they will come for you next! Be prepared. You may think you have hundreds of friends but listen. I only can be your father and you must follow and imitate me. I am sending you Timothy to guide you and return you to the right road. He will teach you what I have told you over and over. “Keep your eyes on Christ and your ears on his word.”

I will come to you soon. Please set aside your arrogance and learn.

## Read Chapters 3 & 4