

Stewards of the Mysteries
1 Corinthians 3:18-4:5

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I. Do not be deceived. 1 Corinthians 3:18-20

**Job 5:12 He frustrates the devices of the crafty, so that their hands
_____ carry out their plans. NKJV**

- *“Humanist beliefs stress the potential value and goodness of human beings, emphasize common human needs, and seek solely rational ways of solving human _____.”* (Oxford dictionary)

We can either depend on the Lord for the answers to life and godliness; or we can lean on humanistic reasoning and wisdom which will _____ us in the end.

II. Don't boast in men; you are God's child. 1 Corinthians 3:21-23

As Christians, we are told plainly **let no man _____ in men.**

- *“They were comparing men and dividing the church by such carnal deeds. Had they been seeking to glorify God alone, there would have been _____ in the assembly.”* (Wiersbe)

“God in Christ _____ a sinful world to Himself, and shedding abroad the riches of His grace on a reconciled world, is the sum and substance of the Gospel.” (Matthew Henry)

III. Servants of Christ. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Joseph was trusted by his master, and everything was under Joseph's control, even though it was still _____ by his master. **Genesis 39:3-6**

- *“Among other things, they were stewards of the mysteries of God. They managed (in the sense of preserving and protecting) and dispensed (in the sense of distributing) the _____ of God.”* (Guzik)

IV. Concerned with God's mission. 1 Corinthians 4:3-5

1. Paul says they're judging God's servants at the wrong _____.
2. Paul says they are judging God's servants by the wrong _____.
3. Paul says they are judging with the wrong _____.

V. Practical Application.

If we are stewards of the mysteries of God and the Lord is the _____ of our lives who has a plan; *what are we to be doing while awaiting His return?*

- **God has called each of His children to share the _____.**

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **1 Corinthians 3:18-20**. Why does a Christian world view matter? Why is it important to make the Bible the final court of arbitration? Are personal feelings and beliefs as important as Biblical truth?
Psalm 94:11, Job 5:8-12, Psalm 138:2, Proverbs 28:26, Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 4:23, 2 Timothy 4:2-4, 2 Timothy 3:16
2. Read **1 Corinthians 3:21-23**. Why is it so dangerous to boast or glory in people rather than Christ?
Isaiah 42:8, Romans 8:16-17, 2 Corinthians 5:19, Hebrews 12:2, 1 Peter 5:8, 2 Timothy 3:1-9
3. What qualities do you think most Christians look for in a leader? What is a steward? Why is it important that stewards be faithful? (Wiersbe)
Genesis 39:3-6, Titus 1:7, Luke 12:42-48, 1 Corinthians 4:2
4. According to Paul in **4:1-5**, what are some wrong approaches to evaluating or judging the work of church leaders? What might be a right approach? Why is it dangerous for us to judge ourselves? In what ways does God judge us? (Wiersbe)
5. What are the mysteries of God? What are believers told to do with these mysteries?
Ephesians 1:9, Colossians 1:27, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Romans 10:14-15
6. Discuss the practical application of the sermon.