

TWO MINISTERIAL METAPHORS - I Cor 3:5-15

INTRODUCTION: 1C 3:5-15.

Introduction: The Minister's Identity - v5

1. *Servants* - deacons: 4:1-2. the minister's ministry, not personality.
2. *Each one* [servant] is *given by Lord* - magnifies grace of Giver 3:21-23.
3. Minister defines self, not in relation to other ministers, but to the Lord.
4. Result? *thru whom you believed* - the church's believing & belief. How?

1st: The Agricultural Metaphor - v6-9

1. Paul then Apollos - plant & water: minister Word of God. Pastoral farmers
2. Both are servants - neither is *anythg* - Cor's boasting -> celebrity. Humility
3. Both must *labor* - "copious": cast seed promiscuously & water abundantly - labor copiously -> exhaustion
4. Each receives *his own reward according to his labor*. Reward labor, not Cor "success." Be faithful. Fruit is up to God. *Well done faithful servant*.
5. *God causes growth* [2x - v6-7]. *We are G's fellow workers* - God is at work in & thru pastor's labors - [Isa 55:11]. Word accomplishes God's purposes.

2nd: The Architectural Metaphor - v9-15

1. Church: *God's field & God's building*. Farmers & construction workers.
2. Foundation: *Jesus*, laid by apostle [v10]. Pastors build - w/ *care* [v10 - watchful attentiveness]. Foundation: 1C 2:2 - gospel. *Edify* build up.
3. Building material? Same quality as foundation. People [living stones - 1Ptr 2:5] and/or doctrine. *Gold, silver, precious stones* not *wood, hay, straw*
4. These analogies re: material describe *each man's work* [2x - inclusio of v13; v14, v15 = 4x in v13-15]. Entire pastoral labor is in view.

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5. *Reward* is promised for faithful work [v14] - when? Fire of Final Judgment: *reveal the quality of man's work - remains or is burned up* [Jms 3:1].
 - i. Do not build w/ combustible material - quality. Xn pastor will be *saved*. The issue is *rewards*.
 - ii. The metaphors motivate us to be careful to give X quality work.
6. **Encouraged:** *we are unworthy servants* [Lk 17:10] - our persons & performance is *grace*. Our confidence is not in our service, but our Savior.
7. **Encouraged:** *we labor not in vain* [1C15:58].
8. **Exhorted:** Be diligent, careful, faithful & be expectant - eternal rewards!