

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

August 27, 2017

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

God is Holy

Exodus 33:17-23: "And the Lord said to Moses, 'I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight, and I have known you by name.' Then Moses said, 'I pray Thee, show me Thy glory!' And He said, 'I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.' But He said, 'You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!' Then the Lord said, 'Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand *there* on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.'"

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross

Is. 12:4-6

+We Adore Him

Hymn #100, "Holy, Holy, Holy"

We Confess Our Sin

Hymn #248, "Ah, Holy Jesus"

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #500, "Rock Of Ages"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Lev. 20:7-8

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #79, "My God, O Why?"

Psalm 22:1-10, 25

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Ps. 12:1, 6-7

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #300, "Blessing And Honor"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

"God's afflicting rod has comfort in it as it is a token of the special favor He bears towards us. We think that God cannot favor us unless He pampers us in His lap. Yet He loves and favors us when He gives us the bitter drink of affliction. God's chastening rod and God's love both stand together. The rod is a token of God's love. It is no love in God, to let men go on in sin and never smite. Is it love to your child to let him run into the water and drown? To be without the rod of God's discipline is a sign of a bastard child, a mark of reprobation. 'But if you are without chastisement, then you are bastards, and not sons.' Hebrews 12:8. God's rod whips us to heaven!" (Thomas Watson, *The Comforting Rod* in light of Rev. 3:19)

The Anatomy of a Church Leader, Pt. 1

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Study Notes for August 27, 2017

I. Introduction: Who will you allow to minister to you?

MacArthur wrote, "First Corinthians 4:1-5 focuses on the true nature and marks of God's ministers. It sets forth the basic guidelines and standards by which ministers are to minister and be evaluated. It deals with what the congregation's attitude toward the minister should be and what the minister's attitude toward himself should be. In short, it puts the minister of God in God's perspective." (1 Corinthians, MNTC, pp. 95-96)

II. The Anatomy of a Church Leader, 1 Cor. 4:1-2.

A. His Conflict, v. 1a.

"...regard us"- a word used in the commerce of Paul's day for reckoning or evaluating the worth or cost of something. Hence it is translated as "reckon," "charge," "deliberate," or "conclude." Accordingly, Paul here is saying, if you are going to come to any conclusion about me- or for that manner any church leader- this is what must be the deduction!

Why the Concern? The Back-Story...

1. The church of Corinth was founded on Paul's **Second Missionary Journey** around AD 50. Paul stayed at this church for 18 months.
2. It was a difficult year and a half...
3. Paul's **Third Missionary Journey** centered in Ephesus. This too was a difficult go...

Trouble from the Gentiles and Jews of Ephesus!

Trouble from the "Super Apostles" in Corinth- 2 Cor. 11:3-5!

...and so, Paul's reputation at this time took a huge hit! These "Super Apostles" viewed Paul as a weak, double-minded man whose message was not at all moving! How long would it be before the Church in Corinth adopted the theology and perspective of these deceivers? Accordingly, Paul wrote this epistle in which he took on both their theology as well as their slanderous accusations.

His Response... not defense, but a stating of how he must be viewed!...

***Point:** From this I want you to see that a very real characteristic of leadership in the church is Conflict! To take responsibility for a group of God's people is to be a man well-acquainted with grief and oft-times under attack!

Jn. 15:20

Acts 5:41

Acts 7:52

2 Tim 2:20

Jn. 16:2b-3

1 Cor. 4:14-17

MacArthur wrote, "In his second letter to Corinth Paul describes in some detail what the life of a minister of God is like. He can expect affliction, hardship, distress, beatings, imprisonment, turmoil, sleeplessness, and hunger... (2 Cor. 6:4-7)." (1 Corinthians, MNTC, p. 97)

***Where We Live**

1. "Well-Intentioned Dragons": They are people in the body of Christ- who perceptively love the Lord- but for some reason have placed you in the cross-hairs. They mean well, but in the end their attack on you is deep, personal, and quite painful!
2. David knew of them. On multiple occasions David gave this testimony: Ps. 55:12-14; 35:11-16...
3. If you are a leader in Christ's church, you will suffer such betrayal; it comes with the territory! So why stay in the ministry? Why not just leave?

B. His Concern, v. 1b.

Servant of Christ- ὑπηρέτης (*hupēretēs*)

The focus of this exhortation revolves around the object of the Church Leader's Service. Of whom is the church leader "a servant"? NOT the people of God! NOT even one another! No! The church leader first and foremost is a Servant of Christ!

1. This is an important distinction! To be the servant of someone or something speaks of one's obligation, tools, manner of carrying out ones service, and the like.

~Farmer

The one whom we've been called to serve as leaders will impact and affect how we go about our service.

2. So according to the Bible, whom has the church leader been called to serve? Christ Jesus!

The Primary nuance of a "Servant of Christ" in Scripture is that of concern. A Servant of Christ is first and foremost moved by the Concern of Christ...

Phil. 2:20-21

Lk. 17:7-8

...and that is the emphasis with ὑπηρέτης (*hupēretēs*) here. Gordon Fee wrote, "...[ὑπηρέτης] refers to one who has the duties of administering the affairs of another" (1 Corinthians, NICNT, p. 159). That is the idea! And thus a mark of Church Leadership is being consumed with the plan, purpose, or concern of Christ!

When we consider this Concern- the Concern of Christ- at least two things come to mind (although we easily could suggest many more)...

1. His Glory- Christ is concerned with the Glory of God (Jn. 17:4-5; 4:34)...
2. His Inheritance- Christ is greatly concerned for His people (Deut. 32:9; 1 Kings 8:51, 53a; Ps. 78:70-71; 1 Pet. 5:2; 1 Cor. 3:9; Jn. 17:6a)...

***Point:** What secondly ought to be our greatest concern as church leaders? The people whom God has entrusted to their care- NOT the nonbeliever, the person who hasn't yet visited, the empty chairs!

*Note: As sheep, we ought all to be concerned for the lost. But as church leaders who will be held accountable NOT for the souls of lost individuals BUT those whom God has entrusted to their care (Heb. 13:17), the elder/deacon must be moved in their office unto the growth, maturation, and well-being of those whom God has given them! This must ever and always be the bottom line as they organize our committees, evaluate ministries, and go forth as a church body.

***Where We Live**

1. We live in an age of commercialization where the church has ceased being viewed as the inheritance of God; it now first and foremost has become a business! And so...
2. As church leaders we have been entrusted with "the inheritance of God" which is His people. Thus the bottom line is: will we do right by them in their walk, service, and maturation in the Lord? That secondly is what must drive us in this ministry!
3. How ought this to impact a body of Christ as they pray for their leaders?