

## Introduction

Over the years I have witnessed the faith of many people upset and even derailed because of the actions of others, particularly those in leadership roles. Many years ago, there was a man on our worship team that was really hurt by the Senior Pastor of the church. I heard this week that he is still struggling with his faith, because of what happened to him. My children have witnessed things in churches that were hurtful and could upset their faith. I have told them that people can let you down, so keep your eyes on Jesus. People will tell you things, make commitments and promises, then not do the things they say. People will make wrong decisions and choices, and say ugly and hurtful things. If our trust and our boast is in men, sooner or later we are going to be let down and be disappointed. I have consistently counseled people to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus, who will never let you down.

We are not to boast in our own abilities, and we are not to boast in other men either. Jeremiah wrote, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things.”

(Jer 9:23–24) “Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; {24} but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.”

In our text today Paul gives three reasons why we are not to boast in men. He does not tell us to keep from boasting in men because they will let us down. His reasons are specifically related to the division that was in the church in Corinth. They were divided over Paul, Apollos, and Peter. Different factions in the church aligned themselves with one of these leaders, and there was much strife and division among the members. Paul’s first reason is that the leaders of the church are just servants of God. Paul uses two examples, agricultural and architectural to emphasize that he and Apollos were just servants who had been given an opportunity by God. His second reason that we are not to boast in men is that the wisdom of men is foolishness to God. Our boast must be in the Lord, not men. His third and final reason for not boasting in men is all things belong to God, including them.

Three reasons not boast in men

1. Men are just God’s servants
  - a. Workers in the field
  - b. Builders of the temple
  - c. Their work will be tested by God
2. The wisdom of men is foolishness to God
3. All things belong to God

(1 Cor 3:5–9) “What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. {6} I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. {7} So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. {8} Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. {9} For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

(1 Cor 3:10-15) “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. {11} For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. {12} Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, {13} each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. {14} If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. {15} If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

(1 Cor 3:16-23) “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? {17} If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are. {18} Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. {19} For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, “He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS”; {20} and again, “THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS.” {21} So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, {22} whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, {23} and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.”

### 1. **Men are just God’s servants** (1 Cor 3:5-9)

Paul begins with a question, “What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? The question ties back to chapter one, where Paul had been informed that there were divisions and quarrels. Some were of Paul, and some were of Apollos. Others were of Peter or Christ. Paul exhorted them to be of one mind and have no divisions. The various factions in the church were trusting in the different leaders that had ministered to them in the past. Paul did not want them clinging to a leader in the wrong way. God wants the church to honor and hold in high esteem the leaders in a church. But the church in Corinth had gone too far, and their faith and focus was on the leaders and not the Lord. Paul let them know that he had not been crucified for them, and they were not baptized in his name. Our hope and trust must be in Christ. We are to honor God’s leaders, but our faith must rest on Christ alone.

(1 Cor 3:5) “What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.”

(1 Cor 1:11–13) “For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are quarrels among you. {12} Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, “I am of Paul,” and “I of Apollos,” and “I of Cephas,” and “I of Christ. {13} Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

Paul’s questions are good questions; what then is Apollos and what is Paul? Paul tells them that they are servants through whom they believed, and that the Lord had given opportunity to serve. As a leader, I regularly thank God for the privilege of serving Him and His people. I thank Him for the opportunities that He has given to me. It is an honor to serve the Almighty God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. I also ask God to help me make the most of the opportunities that He gives to me. Paul has a very humble attitude about his role, it was just another opportunity to serve God.

How did Paul and Apollos serve God? Paul gave two different analogies to help explain their role as servants. The first analogy is agricultural and the second, architectural. Paul said that he had planted, but Apollos had watered. Paul was a church planter. In his apostolic journeys he traveled all through Asia, Europe, and the Middle East preaching the gospel, and planting churches. He taught the new believers, raised up leaders and ordained them. Once a church was established and set in order with elders, he would be off to the next area. Paul did not go where others had already taken the gospel; he did not want to build on the foundations of others. He was an apostle, and one of the things that apostles did was plant churches.

(1 Cor 3:6) “I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.”

(Rom 15:20) “And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man’s foundation;”

(Eph 2:20) “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,”

Apollos was also a servant of God. He went to Corinth after Paul had left, and Luke recorded that he greatly helped those who had believed through grace. Continuing the agricultural analogy, Apollos watered the crops that Paul had planted. That was the opportunity that God had given to him.

(1 Cor 3:6) “I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.”

(Acts 18:27) “And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,”

I like to plant, both in the natural and the spiritual. When we moved to Rome, I carefully planned out our property. I took soil samples so that I would know the pH of the soil. I researched plants and trees to see what would work well in our growing zone, 7B, and in our soil, which was 5.8. I ordered all the trees, vines, and bushes that we were going to plant. I bought a tractor with a backhoe, and with Chad’s help, we dug all the holes, broke up the hard soil with a tiller, added compost to it, and got it ready for planting. For our trees, bushes, and garden, I brought in fourteen truckloads of aged manure compost. When our trees and bushes arrived, we planted everything in its proper place. As a planter, I also watered regularly. In the same way, Paul did a lot of watering when he planted the church in Corinth. Watering is part of a planter’s job.

Once I had our garden put in and planted, Karen was our Apollos. She waters the garden regularly. As one who waters, she also planted seeds, pulled weeds, and carefully tended the garden. Apollos did more than teach the saints in Corinth. He encouraged, strengthened, preached the gospel, and carefully tended the Corinthian garden.

The next phrase is a great truth. Paul said that even though he planted and Apollos watered, it was God that was causing the growth. Paul gave the glory to God for the growth they had. He did not heap accolades on himself, but deflected all glory to God. The Corinthians were looking to him, Apollos, or Peter to pour on praise, but Paul pointed them to Christ. We are Christ’s servants, and whatever fruit we have, we must attribute it to the Lord. Paul did not say that he did not work hard. Paul wrote to that he worked hard day and night, and strived according to all his might. Paul worked hard, but he gave the glory to God, who caused the growth.

Knowing that God causes the growth does several things. First, for God's servants, it keeps us from growing proud. We know that we are the branches and He is the vine, and apart from Him we can do nothing. We must abide in Him to bear fruit, and He causes the growth. Second, it keeps God's servants depending on the Lord, and not looking to themselves. Third, it shifts the burden and responsibility of growth to the Lord, where it belongs.

For the church of Corinth, knowing that God was responsible for the growth, was meant to take their eyes off the individual leaders and help them fix their eyes back on the Lord. Paul was not crucified for them. They were not baptized in the name of Paul. The growth was not because of Paul or anyone else, but was from God. To make sure that they heard this, Paul repeated it in verse seven, saying, "So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth." The Corinthians needed to get their eyes off of God's servants and be united in Christ.

(1 Cor 3:7) "So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth."

Paul has plead for the unity in the church, and that there be no division. Now he tells them that he who plants and he who waters are one. He and Apollos are one. There is no division between the two of them. Paul and Apollos were close and worked together. At the end of this letter, Paul said, "Concerning Apollos our brother, I encouraged him greatly to come to you with the brethren; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has opportunity." Notice that Paul calls him, "our brother." Second, notice that Paul encouraged Apollos. Paul is not just a brother, he is an encourager to Apollos. Paul is like a player coach. He is in the game, but he is also encouraging and directing others that are on the team. Paul encouraged Apollos to go to Corinth, but he did not want to go at that time, but would go when he had an opportunity. Paul and Apollos had good communication and were working well together as a team. Third, in Titus 3:13, Paul asked Titus and the churches in Crete to help Zenas and Apollos on their way. Paul is doing more than encouraging, he is looking out for the welfare and provision of Apollos. The one who planted and the one who watered were one; they were very much working together as a team.

(1 Cor 3:8) "Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor."

(1 Cor 16:12) "But concerning Apollos our brother, I encouraged him greatly to come to you with the brethren; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has opportunity."

(Titus 3:13) "Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them."

A fourth indication that they were one is in verse nine. Paul said, "For we are God's fellow workers." The Greek word is synergos (Strong's G4904), which is a combination of sun and ergon. Sun (Strong's G4862) means to join together or unite, and ergon (Strong's G2041) means to work. Paul and Apollos had officially joined forces and were working together as one.

(1 Cor 3:9) "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."

Even though Paul and Apollos were one, they had different roles and rewards. Paul planted and would receive his reward according to his planting labor. Apollos came afterwards and watered, and he would receive his own reward according to his labor. You and I will receive our own rewards for the kingdom work that we do. Paul was not working for temporal rewards; he was storing up rewards and treasures in heaven. Some of the rewards will be given when we stand before the Lord and give account. The question that we must ask ourselves is, “What heavenly rewards are we earning with our service right now?” God will reward you according to your own labor.

(1 Cor 3:8) “Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.”

Verse nine is a transitional verse. Paul wrote, “for we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.” He changes from fields to buildings. Whether farming or construction, Paul and Apollos were God’s servants and workers.

What kind of building are they? I want to skip down to verse sixteen for just a minute. Paul asked, “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” The building that God was building and is building is the church. Even though the church is referred to as God’s building, the church is people. God’s people are a temple of the Holy Spirit.

On the Kingston Highway, there is a sign that says, “Church is behind the house.” They should say that the church meets behind the house. Many people refer to a church facility as the church, but the church is people. The Holy Spirit does not dwell in a physical building, but in people, not a building, but people. In 2014 Karen and I visited Rome, Italy. We took a tour of ancient Rome and the coliseum. On the tour, the guide pointed out a certain church. I went up to the guide and said that the church is people, and that building was the facility that the church used to meet in. He took the information that I gave him, and announced that on his megaphone to the whole group of fifty tourists. I hope that he now tells every tour group that the church is people and that the old buildings were just the places that the church gathered in.

(1 Cor 3:16) “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

We just had a new house built, and there were many different crews. The first crew came and prepared the site for the foundation. The second group of workers laid the foundation. The third group framed the house. Then, the plumbers did their preliminary work. The electricians came after them. The heating and air conditioning crew came and put in all their ductwork. The roofers came and shingled the roof. Then, the drywall crew put in all the drywall. The flooring company put in the floors. The cabinet company put in the cabinets. The painters came and painted. There were lots of different crews and each had different roles and responsibilities.

Paul was leading the initial crew that laid the foundation. In verse ten, he said, “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it.” In the first analogy, he planted and another watered. In the second analogy, he laid a foundation and another was building on it. He is telling the Corinthians that there are different roles, and all of them are working together. The Corinthians should not be picking one crew over another crew, as each crew has just a separate role, and all of them are necessary. They are God’s field, God’s building, and they belong to God. The various workers are doing the work for God.

Paul mentions that as a wise master builder, he laid a foundation. There are different types of foundations in buildings, and depending on the size of the building, a certain type may be required. Foundations have a depth and a spread to carry the load. Builders try to dig down to a capstone so that the building is on something solid. When I built our small shed, I did not need to dig down deeply; it was merely recommended that I dig below the layer of top soil. I did not think the foundation that came with the shed was very sturdy, so I designed and built my own foundation for the shed. I did not need to have a floorplan of the insides. Our house was a different matter, and the foundation had to be laid with the floorplan in mind. Each load-bearing wall needed to have concrete pillars supporting it. The foundation walls were poured under the exterior perimeter of the house.

(1 Cor 3:10-11) “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. {11} For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

The foundation that Paul laid for the building is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Rock that the building sets on. Jesus said that the house built on the sand will fall, but the house built on the rock will stand in the storms. Jesus is the rock that we must build our lives and our churches upon. Jesus is the Cornerstone. Jesus is the foundation that must be laid.

(Matt 7:24–27) “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. {25} And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. {26} Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. {27} The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

In Matthew 16, Jesus asked His disciples who people said He is. They said, John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Then, He asked them who they said He is. Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus then said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” Jesus is the rock that the church is built on, and nothing will overpower it.

(Matt 16:15–18) “He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” {16} Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” {17} And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. {18} I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

When Karen and I lived in Orlando, a pastor moved into the house next to us. He pastored the Church of Prophecy. Their interpretation of that verse was that Jesus was going to build His church on the rock of revelation or prophecy. They completely missed the point. Peter had a revelation from God of who Jesus is, but that revelation is not the rock; Jesus is the rock. The church is built on Jesus Christ. Jesus is the living stone, the choice stone, the precious stone, the Cornerstone that the Jews rejected and stumbled over. The church is made up of living stones, who are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood.

(1 Pet 2:4–8) “And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, {5} you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. {6} For this is contained in Scripture: “BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” {7} This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,” {8} and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.”

Jesus is the foundation that the church is built on, and we are to be very careful about laying that foundation and building on it. In the farming analogy, Paul said that the workers would each receive his own reward. Now, in the construction analogy, Paul said that each man must be careful how he builds on it. Why is it so important to build carefully? Can't we build however we want? Can't we build whatever we want? There are thousands of different kinds of churches with all kinds of beliefs, values, visions, and missions. Why is it so important?

(1 Cor 3:10-11) “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. {11} For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

God tells us that if we build with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, each man's work will become evident, for the day will show it because it will be revealed with fire. The fire will test the quality of each man's work. If that work remains, he will receive a reward. If the man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. We need to be careful about how we build because our work will be tested. Our rewards hinge upon the quality of our work. If our work is done with quality and stands up through the fires that test, we will receive a reward. We do not get rewarded for working; we get rewarded for the quality of our work. I want to do quality work so that I receive a reward for my hard work. I want to do quality work because I want my work to stand under the pressures, storms, and fires that it is tested with.

(1 Cor 3:12-15) “Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, {13} each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. {14} If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. {15} If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

My father used to tell me that anything worth doing is worth doing right. We need to build with quality and do things right. I have found in the construction world that if you build it right the first time, you don't have to tear it down and rebuild it. Shortcuts may appear to be less expensive, but they frequently turn out to be more expensive because of the problems associated with building with less quality.

Paul gives a second reason why we must build with quality. He said that the saints are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in them. If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy. We need to build with quality because of what we are

building. The church is people and they are the temple of God. The people of God have the Spirit of God dwelling in them. If we do something that destroys the temple of God, God will destroy us. The first reason was that our rewards are based on the quality. The second reason is that there are extremely bad consequences for building something that destroys the temple of God. Jesus gave His life to save us. His people, the church, the temple of the Holy Spirit, is precious and valuable to Him, and if we destroy it, He will destroy us. We need to be very careful about how we build this temple of the Holy Spirit. We need to be careful and build with quality.

(1 Cor 3:16-17) “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? {17} If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”

Another reason for building with quality is not found in this text, but is still an important reason for all of us. We are Christ’s workers, His servants, and His representatives. As His representatives, our work needs to represent Him. God does everything with a spirit of excellence. In Genesis, at the end of every day, He said, “It was good.” God does good work. God does spectacular work. God does magnificent work. If our work is going to be done in the same manner as God’s work, it needs to be done with excellence. When I stand before the Lord and give account to Him, I want to hear Him say, “Well done, thy good and faithful servant!”

## 2. **The wisdom of men is foolishness to God** (1 Cor 3:18-20)

The first reason that we should not boast in men is that they are just servants of God. The second reason that we are not to boast in men is that the wisdom of men is foolishness to God. God tells us not to deceive ourselves. If we think that we are wise in this age, we must become foolish so that we can become wise. The wisdom of the world is foolishness before God. The Greek philosophers thought that by reasoning and increasing in knowledge they could find God. Their quest for knowledge and their debates was foolishness before God. It did not resolve their problem with sin and their need for forgiveness. The wisdom of men did not reconcile them to God. We have to go back to chapter two to frame this statement. The world thought that the word of the cross was foolishness. They thought that Jesus’ death for the sins of the world was foolishness. If someone thinks that he is wise in the world, he must receive this word of the cross, what they consider foolish, in order to be saved and receive the wisdom of God. When we receive Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit knows the mind of God and gives us the thoughts of God. We receive the wisdom of God through the Holy Spirit, which He gives to us when we believe the word of the cross.

(1 Cor 3:18-20) “Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. {19} For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, “He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS”; {20} and again, “THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS.””

## 3. **All things belong to God** (1 Cor 3:21-23)

Because the wisdom of men is foolishness before God, we are not to boast in men. Then, Paul gives the third reason that we are not to boast in men. He told the Corinthians that all things belong to them. Paul, Apollos, Peter, and everything in the world, all things, belong to them. He does not stop there; he said that they belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God. The third

reason that we are not to boast in men is that we belong to God. Therefore, our boasting must be in God, not in men.

(1 Cor 3:21-23) “So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, {22} whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, {23} and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.”

We are not to boast in the wisdom of men, or in our own wisdom. If we must boast, our boasting should be that we know the Lord, and it is the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth.

(Jer 9:23–24) “Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; {24} but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.

### **Conclusion and Applications**

There was division in the church of Corinth, division over the different leaders that had served them. Paul wanted the church to get their eyes off of the men, and onto the Lord. He and Apollos were just servants of the Lord. Each of them had served in different roles and capacities, but it was the Lord who caused the growth.

Paul wanted the church to know that they belonged to God. They were His field that he and Apollos had worked in. They were His building, a temple of the Holy Spirit. They needed to understand that they belonged to God, not to Paul or Apollos. They needed to put their focus back on the Lord.

As a master builder, Paul laid a foundation, and that foundation is Christ. There is no other foundation than Christ. He is the Cornerstone. The church in Corinth needed to build on the foundation of Christ. They had lost sight that Jesus is the foundation of their faith. They needed to get their eyes back on Christ.

The wisdom of men is foolishness to God. His wisdom far exceeds the wisdom of men. The church in Corinth needed to stop boasting in the wisdom of men, and start boasting in God. They needed to get their eyes off of men, and onto the Lord.

The church in Corinth had all things, including Paul and Apollos, but they belonged to Christ, and Christ belongs to God. They needed to get their focus on the One that they belonged to, God.

This morning, God wants to remind us that our eyes must be fixed on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. The eyes of the Corinthians were on men. Some people have their eyes on the things of the world. Some have it on other things, like the pleasures of the world, knowledge, good works, etc. Where are your eyes focused? God wants our focus and our boast to be in Him. When our focus is on Christ, there will be unity in the body.

### **Closing Prayer**

Father God, thank You for this passage. Lord, we want to turn our eyes on Jesus. We ask You to forgive us for boasting in men, or the things of the world. May You be our focus and our boast. Help us to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. Lord, we confess You as our Lord this morning. We are Your field, Your building, and Your temple. It is You who has made us and not we ourselves. We are Your people and the sheep of Your pasture. We confess You as our Lord. Amen.

**Introduction** (Jer 9:23–24, 1 Cor 3:5–23)

1. **Men are just God’s servants** (1 Cor 3:5-17, 1 Cor 1:11–13, Rom 15:20, Eph 2:20, Acts 18:27, 1 Cor 16:12, Tit 3:13, 1 Cor 3:16, Matt 7:24–27, Matt 16:15-18, 1 Pet 2:4-8,
2. **The wisdom of men is foolishness to God** (1 Cor 3:18-20)
3. **All things belong to God** (1 Cor 3:21-23, Jer 9:23–24)

**Conclusion and Applications**