

Message #13**I Corinthians 3:10-11**

The Corinthians were judging the various ministers (i.e. 1:12; 3:4; 4:3). They were arguing and fighting over which minister was the best. Some believed it was Paul, the man who had founded the church. Some believed it was Apollos, a man who had taught in the church. Some believed it was Peter, a man who had never been to the church

The carnal Corinthians had set themselves up as the minister's judge and jury, and Paul wanted it stopped (i.e. 4:5-6).

EVERY MINISTER MUST BE VERY CAREFUL IN WHAT HE DOES IN MINISTRY FOR IT IS GOD WHO WILL CRITICALLY JUDGE AND REWARD EVERY MINISTER.

There will be some ministers who will receive great rewards (3:14). There will be some ministers who will receive no rewards (3:15). There will be some ministers who will be damned (3:17). One fact is certain from this context; all ministers will be carefully and critically judged by God and each will receive full and complete compensation for what he did and taught in his ministry.

In verses 5-9, Paul wanted the people of the church to understand the work of a minister. In **verses 10-17**, Paul wanted the people of the church to understand the judgment of a minister.

PERCEPTION #1 – Paul evaluates his own ministry. **3:10a**

Conviction #1 – Paul's ministry was by God's grace. **3:10a**

The participle “was given” is aorist passive, which means Paul believed that his right to minister had been given to him by God, and that he himself had nothing to do with the action.

In other words, Paul truly believed that his ministry was totally due to God's grace. Paul never once thought he deserved to be an apostle (i.e. I Cor. 15:9), but by God's grace that is what God called him to be (I Cor. 15:10).

He did not view it as something he earned or that he deserved, he viewed it as a gracious gift of God. He had laid a foundation for the church in Corinth not because of his greatness, but because of God's grace.

Conviction #2 – Paul's ministry was as a skilled builder. **3:10b**

What these words indicate is that Paul took ministry very seriously and he ministered as a very skilled master builder and architect for God. He did not see himself as a novice apprentice; he viewed himself as a very skilled craftsman.

The word “wise” is one that means Paul saw himself as very skilled, very wise, very clever and learned in ministry. By God’s grace he had become a very intelligent and skilled minister in the things of God.

Conviction #3 – Paul’s ministry was foundational. **3:10c**

Paul was THE apostle to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13).

His apostolic ministry was very foundational in that it began with a presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the grace of God, which message God used to save many people and to establish many churches (Eph. 2:19-20).

We obviously know that in Corinth a great deal of Paul’s time was spent laying the foundation of what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross.

PERCEPTION #2 – Paul evaluates other type ministries. **3:10d**

The word “another” is a word that refers to another of the same kind. Paul is referring to other ministers who have been given a ministry by the same grace of God and are also skilled as Paul was skilled. Paul himself absolutely refused to build his ministry on another man’s foundational ministry (Rom. 15:20).

PERCEPTION #3 – Paul warns all ministers. **3:10e**

The verb “build,” which shows up twice near the end of this verse, is present tense, meaning that the church is to continually be building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.

The words “be careful” are words that mean every minister must continually take a careful look as to what he is building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. There is to be a continual discerning evaluation as to exactly what the minister is building.

PERCEPTION #4 – Paul gives the foundation of all ministry. **3:11**

There is ONLY ONE true foundation for any ministry and that is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the only foundation of ministry. It doesn’t matter how large or impressive or how impacting; if it is not based on the foundation of Jesus Christ, it IS NOT true ministry. Any true church of God will be built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. It will not be based on works, on religion or on a constitution, but on Him.

Will you take a serious look at your life today? Sine you have trusted Jesus Christ, what have you been doing, what have you been building into your soul? What have you constructed in your life?