

1 Corinthians 3

King James Version (KJV)

3 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. (You are just beginners in knowing the Word of God)

²I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. (Milk is symbolic of beginners, meat is for mature Christians. You have to understand the basics before you can mature to understand the deeper message)

³For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? (They had all the failings of people in the world. They were not thinking as Christians. This flesh life is short and should be spent staying in the Word of God and helping others. Not competing to see who can get the richest, usually at other peoples' expense)

⁴For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? (denominations are a sign of immaturity; preachers trying to make a name for themselves. Membership in these denominations becomes a status symbol for the self-righteous)

⁵Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? (Apollos was a Greek, who was converted to Christianity by the teachings of Priscilla. Afterwards, he became a preacher also)

⁶I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. (Christianity is of God, not some preacher. There is one doctrine and it is of God. Don't follow a preacher. Follow God) see Acts-18:24-26

⁷So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. (We all have a part in advancing God's Word, not the word of the preacher. The Word itself is God's)

⁸Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. (Those who

work for God are due their reward, and will be rewarded by God. Those that do it for their own wealth and status will get nothing. They got their reward)

⁹For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. (Preachers may preach, but it is God that provides the wisdom and knowledge) (Christians are the temple of God)

¹⁰According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. (Stick to the Word of God, not traditions of men. Stay away from men's publishings – like quarterlies and news letters)

(The Bible <properly translated> teaches all we need to know about the Word of God; properly translated because the manuscripts were written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, and then translated to English. There are some translation errors in all the English versions, but there are many tools available to take the verses back to the original languages)

¹¹For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (Jesus Christ is our foundation for Christianity. Not the Book of Mormon; not the Jehovah's Witnesses' publications, not church quarterly newsletters, not the Islamic Koran)

¹²Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; (From good, to bad <gold to stubble> is increasingly damaged or destroyed by fire. Fire makes gold and silver better by removing impurities, but it damages precious stones, and destroys wood and stubble is just a flash in the pan)

¹³Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. (As fire is used to refine and purify precious metals like gold and silver; God is a consuming fire and will test every preacher's work)

¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. (Because his work was judged to be righteous)

¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (Because his work was judged to be in error, but he honestly tried)

¹⁶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. (If a preacher's work was to enrich himself by making up his own doctrine, or changing the Word of God to suit himself, he will be judged as evil. He will be responsible for every soul that he misled)

¹⁸ Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. (Worldly wisdom <How to become rich and powerful> is opposed to heavenly wisdom <charity and helping others to find salvation>. You cannot follow both)

¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. (Worldly wise) see Job-5:13

²⁰ And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Psalms-94:11-17

²¹ Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are your's; (Men who seek glory and fame of people are losers in God's eyes)

²² Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's; (You steer your own ship and determine your own fate. Don't be jealous of others)

²³ And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's. (We all belong to God, so why follow or envy other people)

(Paul is teaching against denominations and glory-seeking preachers. They are still around today)