



perfectly united

studies in 1 Corinthians 1-4

SCPC term 1 2008

sunday 16th march 2008

study 7 one foundation 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

KEY VERSE FOR SERIES: I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. **1 Corinthians 1:10**

There are two key themes that keep emerging from the early chapters of 1 Corinthians. The first theme is a CALL TO UNITY—as in the above key verse for this series. The second theme is the declaration that the CROSS DIVIDES the world—as in another important verse to these chapters, 1:18, which tells us that the cross divides the world into those who are perishing and those who are being saved. The two themes are strongly related: the cross both unites the church and divides the world. This is what the Corinthians are failing to grasp, as they divide over other things and fail to unite around the message of the cross. This short passage rams home the seriousness of that problem. It looks ahead to the Day of Judgment and gives us another insight into the latter theme—the dividing work of the cross. Not only does the cross divide the world into saved & perishing... it will divide ministry into those categories as well. Ministry based on the cross of Christ will have lasting eternal consequences in the lives of others (their salvation). Ministry not based on the cross of Christ will be put to the torch and will perish. This is a great challenge to all of us in our lives and ministry: are we wasting our lives on flammable pursuits, or contributing to that which will last eternally—people saved through Jesus.

some notes on questions

Q1. God's grace! (notice grace here isn't just saving grace for *us* but empowering grace for *others*)! which should be enough reason already to see that the rewards Paul goes on to talk about aren't something for us to boast about but rather the joy of being used by God in the eternal destiny of others.

Q2-3. If it's not about Jesus, and built on Jesus, it'll go up in smoke on the last day.

Q4. The point isn't their value but their flammability. "The Day" is a day when everything in opposition to Jesus will be judged. And there's no middle ground. Life and ministry that doesn't bring people to Jesus or encourage people in Jesus... it's flammable hay... combustible straw...

Q5. Remember 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 which was cross-referenced in last week's study: they key to the rewards/loss idea is that this isn't about you or your salvation but rather what will stand in relation to your ministry to others. Notice the stress on "he HIMSELF" in verse 15: the ministry 'builder' or Christian who failed to minister the gospel to others... he *himself* will be saved—but no-one else will be there as a result of their life—thus no reward, no joy in seeing those others.

Q6-8. This should be a chance for serious reflection: how 'flammable' are the lives we're living? Will we be the one saved *ourselves* 'cause our own trust is in Jesus, but with no eternal impact in others lives?

digging deeper: compare also Matthew 16:13-20—Peter's CONFESSION of Christ as the rock.

ministry needs

MOPS (mothers of pre-schoolers) is one of our key outreach ministries to young families (tuesdays 10am-12 @ park ave). There is an urgent need for more women as helpers on MOPS Program Days (only twice a term!). Please raise the need in your groups and speak to Katja McPherson or Bronwyn Mitchell for more info.

coming events

good friday service: 9:30am 21 march
@lismore high

small group bible study leaders' notes

