

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 4:3-7**.
- B. The apostle says that Xians need to be trustworthy servants. For many Xians this means changes in their lives. For those thinking of becoming Xians this step to being a trustworthy servant is a big one.
- C. I like to call it "getting your act together." We must "straighten up and fly right" if we are going to be what Jesus wants us to be.

I. BE EXAMINED BY CHRIST.

- A. First Corinthians 4:3-4.
*But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by *any* human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. **4** For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.*
- B. The three courts of judgment (v3-4):
 - 1. The court of **public opinion** (1Cor. 14:23; 1Tim. 3:7; Lk. 2:52; Ac. 2:47).
*(1Cor 14:23) If therefore the whole church should assemble together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?
(1Tim 3:7) And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
(Ac 2:47) praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.
(Lk 2:52) And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*
 - 2. The court of **conscience** (1Jn. 3:20; Ac. 23:1; 24:16; Prov. 28:6).
*(1Jn 3:20) in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.
(Ac 23:1) And Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day."
(Ac 24:16) "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience *both* before God and before men.
(Prov. 28:6) Better is the poor who walks in his integrity, Than he who is crooked though he be rich.*
 - 3. The court of **the Lord** (2Cor. 5:10; Ac. 10:42; Rom. 2:16).
*(2Cor 5:10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
(Ac 10:42) "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.
(Rom 2:16) on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.*
- D. Therefore to "get our act together" may we always be examined by X and His standard (the gospel) to make sure our life is what it should be (see 2Cor. 13:5).

II. DO NOT PASS JUDGMENT.

- A. First Corinthians 4:5.
*Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.*
- B. No one likes fault finders and critics. Neither does JC!
- C. Many have heard the old saying "none of your business." This means that a person has no right to proceed with a certain matter because it does not involve him.
- D. This same statement "none of your business" applies to the aspect of judging others. Judging is none of our business because it is Jesus' business.
- E. Jesus spoke of judging others in Mt.7:1-5.
- F. "Getting our act together" means getting on with living the Xian life not spending time in judgment of others acts and words.

III. DO NOT GO BEYOND WHAT IS WRITTEN.

- A. First Corinthians 4:6.

Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

- B. No one is smart enough to chart his own course in life. Man cannot do it, no matter how hard he tries.
C. Arrogance says "don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up."
D. Paul says not to be arrogant and stay with the scriptures.
E. The Bible is man's guide to life. "Getting our act together" from it is good, sound, logical, reasonable and right. No man can improve on God's pattern for living as laid out in the Bible (2Pet. 1:19).
And so we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

IV. DO NOT CONSIDER YOURSELVES SUPERIOR.

- A. First Corinthians 4:7.

For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

- B. Jesus had 12 men who were very special to him. Out of those 12 were 3 He spent more time with. Yet these 12 and the 3 in the 12 never considered themselves superior to other followers of Jesus.
C. In the church no one is better than anyone else. The only one better is JC (Rom. 3:8; Heb. 1:4).
(Rom 3:8) And why not *say* (as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say), "Let us do evil that good may come"? Their condemnation is just.
(Heb 1:4) having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.
D. Everything man has or will have is because of God. He is the giver of every good and perfect gift. We must always give praise to Him for all things (Jas. 1:17).
E. "Getting our act together" means to acknowledge God as the giver and sustainer of life. It is not in ourselves.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. To become a trustworthy servant is the matter at hand this morning.
B. We can "get our act together" and do just that if we will:
1. Be examined by X.
2. Do not pass judgment on others.
3. Do not go beyond what is written.
4. Do not consider ourselves to be superior.
C. "Get your act together" by obeying JC today.
D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; for erring Xians.