

*Forming Opinions
about God's Ministers*

1 Corinthians 4:1-7

1 Corinthians 2:3-5

- I was with you **in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling**. And my speech and my preaching *were* **not with persuasive words of human wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men** but in the power of God.

When thinking about the effectiveness of a minister...

- Consider that God's ministers are primarily accountable to the Lord (1 Cor 4:1-2)

1 Corinthians 3:5

- Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but **ministers** through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

Luke 16:1-2

- He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a **steward**, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.'

Luke 16:3-4

- "Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.'

Luke 16:5-7

- "So he called every one of his master's debtors to *him*, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.'
- "Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

Luke 16:8-9

- "So the master commended the unjust steward because he **had dealt shrewdly**. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. And I say to you, **make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon**, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.

When thinking about the effectiveness of a minister...

- Consider that God's ministers are primarily accountable to the Lord (1 Cor 4:1-2)
- Wait before coming up with a verdict (1 Cor 4:3-5)

1 Corinthians 1:17

- For Christ did not send me to baptize, but **to preach the gospel**, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

1 John 3:20-21

- For if our heart condemns us, **God is greater than our heart**, and **knows all things**. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, **we have confidence toward God**.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

- " The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, *I* test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

Acts 10:42

- "And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that *it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.*

1 Corinthians 3:8

- Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive **his own reward** according to his own labor.

Revelation 22:12

- " And behold, **I am coming** quickly, and **My reward is with Me**, to give to every one according to his work.

Matthew 25:21

- "His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and **faithful** servant; you were **faithful** over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

When thinking about the effectiveness of a minister...

- Consider that God's ministers are primarily accountable to the Lord (1 Cor 4:1-2)
- Wait before coming up with a verdict (1 Cor 4:3-5)
- Consider that the source of man's abilities is God, not man (1 Cor 4:6-7)

Everything comes from God

- **John 3:27** John answered and said, "A man **can receive nothing** unless it has been **given to him** from heaven.
- **James 1:17** **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Romans 13:7

- Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, **honor to whom honor**.

This presentation was created by Wilfrido Pérez and originally delivered at Redeeming Grace Christian Fellowship in Culpeper, Virginia, on August 2, 2015.

Feel free to share it with others. Our desire is that people might get to know God through His word.

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