

Sunday, April 24, 2016—I Corinthians 4:8: I Would to God Ye Did Reign

Introduction

- Last week we resumed our series of studies through I Corinthians by looking at chapter 4 verse 7 in message titled *Knowledge Puffeth Up*.
- I Corinthians 8:1—“Knowledge puffeth up. . .” I believe that mid-Acts Pauline Dispensationalism is the key that unlocks ones understanding of the scriptures. When one comes to understand the word of God rightly divided and the revelation of the mystery committed to the Apostle Paul they have access to the mystery of his will (Eph. 1:9-11) and manifold wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10). Along with knowledge of the mystery comes a natural fleshly tendency to be “puffed up” concerning it, act like one has always known it, and look down their nose at those who don’t.
- This morning I want to move on through the passage by looking at verse 8.

I Corinthians 4:8

- **Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.**
- *Now ye are full*—the Corinthians are in the present tense “full.” In other words, the Corinthians are satiated and satisfied.
 - Acts 27:38—“eaten enough”
- *Now ye are rich*—the Corinthians are in present state of being rich. The Corinthians had an abundance of outward worldly possessions in a physical sense.
 - I Timothy 6:9—“will be rich”
 - Revelation 3:17—“increased with goods”
 - Revelation 18:3, 15, 19
- *Ye have reigned as kings without us*—as of the time of Paul’s writing the Corinthians “have reigned as kings.” According to *Strong’s Concordance* there are two possible meanings of the Greek word translated “reigned” in this verse one is literal the other metaphorical.
 - Literal—to be king, to execute kingly power, to reign
 - Metaphorical—to exercise the highest influence to control

- Given that the expression “ye have reigned **AS** kings without us” is a simile it seems clear that Paul has the metaphorical use in mind in this verse.
- So the Corinthians had enjoyed full bellies, fat pocket books, and influence to control without Paul. Meanwhile, they remained babes, carnal, divided, and puffed from a spiritual standpoint.
- *And I would to God ye did reign*—Dropping the irony here Paul says I wish it were true that ye did reign. The Corinthians were not ruling and governing the assembly according to the standards set forth by the Apostle Paul. There was total and complete chaos and pandemonium.
 - I Timothy 3:1-7
 - I Timothy 5:17
 - Titus 1:5-9
 - I Corinthians 14:40—the Corinthians were behaving indecently and out of order.
- *That we also might reign with you*—if the Corinthians had reigned and conducted the affairs of the assembly according to the standard set forth by the Apostle Paul it would have been possible for Paul to have reigned with them. Instead, Paul’s ministry to them was primarily *corrective* rather than *supportive*.
- The Greek verb translated “reign with” means to reign together and occurs only one other time in the New Testament.
 - II Timothy 2:12—as we have already studied in the past all members of the body of Christ will one day “reign with” in the heavenly places.
- The problem in I Corinthians 4 is that the Corinthians were judging their spiritual condition by looking at their outward circumstances. They equated full bellies, fat pocket books, and influence with God’s blessing when in actual fact they were totally out of the will of God.
 - I Corinthians 4:9-13—the Corinthians enjoyed certainly fleshly advantages that Paul did not. They did not want to just give those things up.
- Unfortunately, this is where the majority of professing Christendom is terms of how they view God. They are functioning with a Corinthian mentality and mindset. As a believer we need to order our lives and thinking around the following unchanging spiritual realities.
- *You are Totally Forgiven*—Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 2:13
- *You have Peace with God*—Romans 5:1

- *You are Accepted in the Beloved*—Ephesians 1:6
- *You are a Member of the Body of Christ*—I Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 2:19
- *Paul is Your Apostle*—Romans 11:13, Ephesians 3:3, I Timothy 1:16
- *You are Complete in Christ*—Colossians 2:10
- *The Word of God is Complete*—Colossians 1:25
- *The Word of God Works Effectually*—I Thessalonians 2:13
- I Corinthians 4:8—Paul is essentially telling the Corinthians that he wished they were in actual fact who they imagined themselves to be. The very fact that he says “I would” implies 1) *doubt* that it was so and 2) *desire* that the Corinthians would change.