

God Calls
Us All To

Faithful
ENDURANCE

1 Corinthians 4:1-13

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GBC; 6-9-19

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Faithful Endurance

- **1Cor. 4:1** Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.



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Divisions & Factions in Corinth

- Misunderstanding of Christian **message**
 - Relying on worldly wisdom, not God's wisdom
- Misunderstanding of Christian **messengers**
 - Just servants
 - Farmers: messengers plant, God provides the growth
 - Builders: messengers build, Christ is the cornerstone



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Faithful Endurance

- **1Cor. 4:1** Let a man regard us in this manner, as **servants** of Christ and **stewards** of the **mysteries** of God.
- **servant**: ὑπηρέτης (*hypēretēs*): originally meant “under-rower”, now subordinate, assistant
- **steward**: οἰκονόμος (*oikonomos*): household or estate manager; high position with great responsibility and authority, often a trusted slave
- **mystery**: something not understood before, but now revealed

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- 2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found **trustworthy**.
- **trustworthy**: πιστός (*pistos*): faithful, trustworthy, dependable, reliable



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- **3** But to me it is a very small thing that I may 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.



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Faithful Endurance

- **3** But to me it is a very small thing that I may 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**.

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- 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.



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- 5 Therefore **do not go on passing judgment** before **the time**,
- **do not go on passing judgment** = stop judging!
- **time**: *καιρός* (*kairos*): appointed or opportune time
 - **1 Cor. 3:13** each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.



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- 5 ... *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**;
- **motives of men's hearts** = all hidden motivations of our lives, conscious or not



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- 5 ... and then each man's **praise** will come to him from God.
- **praise**: recognition, reward
 - at judgment seat of Christ (judgment of believers)



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Faithful Endurance: Summary of 4:1-5

- Leaders are stewards of the mysteries of God
- Stewards must be found faithful
- Faithfulness is determined by God alone
- Faithfulness will be revealed and rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ
- Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, ... 12 for the equipping of the **saints** for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

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Humility

- **1Cor. 4:6** Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other. **7** For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?



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Humility

- **1Cor. 4:6** Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn **not to exceed what is written**, so that no one of you will become **arrogant** in behalf of one against the other.
- **not to exceed what is written**: lit. the “not beyond what is written”
 - F.F. Bruce: “Don’t go beyond the Book”
- **arrogant**: lit. puffed up, inflated; related to word for “bellows”

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Humility: Three questions

- 7 For **who** regards you as superior? **What** do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, **why** do you boast as if you had not received it?



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Humility: Summary 4:6-7

- All that you have comes from God
- You earn nothing regarding salvation or spiritual life
- You have no reason to boast



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Faithful **Endurance**?

- **1Cor. 4:8** You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and indeed, / wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.

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Faithful **Endurance**?

- **1Cor. 4:8** You are already **filled**, you have already become **rich**, you have become **kings** without us; and indeed, / wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.
- **filled**: satiated, gluttoned; word used of over-stuffed farm animals
- **rich, kings**: ideas possibly from Greek philosophy or mystery religions



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- **9** For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.



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Faithful Endurance

- **9** For, I think, God has **exhibited** us apostles **last of all**, as men **condemned to death**; because we have become a **spectacle** to the world, both to angels and to men.

- **exhibited**: ἀποδείκνυμι (*apodeiknymi*): technical word: bring person into arena for gladiatorial show
- **last of all**: grand finale in arena; reserved for lowest criminals
- **condemned to death**: ἐπιθανάτιος (*epithanatos*): used of those thrown to lions
- **spectacle**: θέατρον (*theatron*): theater, spectacle in theater

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A decorative border at the bottom of the slide features a series of black silhouettes of people of various ages and ethnicities holding hands, symbolizing unity and community.

Faithful **Endurance**

- **10** We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.



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Faithful **Endurance**: Three Contrasts

- **10** We are **fools** for Christ's sake, but you are **prudent** in Christ;
- we are **weak**, but you are **strong**;
- you are **distinguished**, but we are **without honor**.

- **1:27-28** but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,



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Faithful **Endurance**

- **11** To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; **12** and we toil, working with our own hands;



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Faithful **Endurance**: Six Examples

- **11** To this present hour we are both **hungry** and **thirsty**, and are **poorly clothed**, and are **roughly treated**, and are **homeless**; **12** and we **toil**, working with our own hands;



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Faithful **Endurance**

- **12** ... when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; **13** when we are slandered, we try to conciliate;



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Faithful **Endurance**: Three Contrasts

- **12** ... when we are **reviled**, we **bless**;
- when we are **persecuted**, we **endure**;
- **13** when we are **slandered**, we **try to conciliate**;



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Faithful **Endurance**: Paul's Summary

- **13** ... we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, *even* until now.



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Faithful **Endurance**: Paul's Summary

- **13** ... we have become as the **scum** of the world, the **dregs** of all things, *even* until now.
- **scum**: περικάθαρμα (*perikatharma*): to cleanse all around
- **dregs**: περίψημα (*peripsēma*): to scrape, scour all around



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Faithful **Endurance**: Summary 4:8-13

- Corinthians: living like fat, wealthy kings
 - Wise, strong, distinguished in eyes of world
- Paul and other leaders: faithfully enduring persecution
 - Treated like criminals
 - Foolish, weak, dishonored in eyes of world
 - Enduring deprivation and ill treatment
- **2Tim. 3:12** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.



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