

How are we doing?

“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:13). There must have been a problem, in Corinth, of people comparing

Paul with other people. The context of 2 Corinthians bears this out; “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?” (2 Corinthians 3:1). Also, “For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart” (2 Corinthians 5:12). Paul, for some reason, was not measuring up to a standard that others had set. With whom are these “some” comparing Paul to? Who set up the standard by which Paul was to be measured? Who sets the standard for any man’s work? Paul said “if we compare ourselves with ourselves we are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:13). Let us study.

First, we must understand that we are not the Judge. We do not have the insight into all the problems a person faces nor do we have the presence in everyone’s life to make the rules by which everyone must abide. What “some” have done is set up a false standard that they expect others to meet. It would be interesting if we knew the other party. It would be interesting if we knew all about the standard with which they were measuring.

Second, who can set up the measure of success? Was it the number of baptisms? How many had Paul baptized? In the first book that we have, “I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name” (1 Corinthians 1:14-15). The next verse tells Paul mission, “For Christ sent me not to be baptized, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect” (1 Corinthians 1:17). How many people made up the church at Corinth, yet Paul only baptized two? Not very successful was he? Whose standard

are we using; God’s or a person who says that a good preacher must baptize so many within in a year? It would be interesting to know how many people were baptized by those who were imposing numbers of baptisms upon Paul. Will we not be judged by the same standard we set for others (Matthew 7:1-5)?

Thirdly, Paul was not necessarily their style of preacher. It might be that Paul used too many scriptures in his sermons! When Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 10 notice how many scriptures are mentioned? He does not give book, chapter, and verse but in ten verses there are at least six different scripture references! Where did Paul get that idea of using so many scriptures? Paul said, “All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Peter said that Paul wrote scripture, “And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also other scriptures, unto their own destruction” (2 Peter 3:15-16). It was the Holy Ghost who told Paul what to write and who then can condemn him for using so many scriptures?

Fourthly, Paul was not their type of preacher. Paul may not have worn the clothes that “some” thought was necessary of a preacher. His clothes may have been made out of the tent material. He was a tentmaker. He knew where to get that kind of material. He knew how to sew that kind of material. But he did not look like what “some” thought a preacher ought to look like. How is a preacher to look? It would be interesting to take a census of a congregation to know what a preacher is suppose to look like.

Let us let God judge and make the standard. Love, Keith

Those serving...Next Sunday

Song Leading
Scripture Reading
Opening Prayer
Lord’s Supper

Closing Prayer
Announcements/Invitation

Don Evans
Frank Long
Perry Sims
Tommy Stacks(P)
Harry Wise, Jerry Shepherd, DJ Allen,
Causie Crane, Art Hein, Mark Pettus
Chuck Mitchell
Tommy Wolaver

BULLETIN INFORMATION

If there is something that needs to be put in the bulletin please email Crissy at trudyblue1@yahoo.com. Please get this info to her before Thursday evening. You can also text her with info at 706-206-8514