

Commended by the Lord

(1 Corinthians 4:1-5)

Every person likes to receive commendation from others. With this desire, comes the danger of being like the religious leaders in the time of Jesus (Matthew 6:1-4). They cared more about receiving praise from men than God.

The Apostle Paul had a totally different mindset (1 Corinthians 4:1-5). Paul did not concern himself with the judgment of others, or even himself. His main concern was the Lord's judgment. He wanted commendation from God before anyone else.

This should be our desire as well. In fact, it is interesting that in the Bible we can read about times when Jesus personally commended people.

I. He commended people for having great faith.

- A. The Lord marveled at the faith of the Roman centurion (Matthew 8:5-10).
 - 1. This man believed that Jesus has authority over sickness and disease.
 - 2. As a gentile, his faith exceeded anyone among the Israelites.
- B. What about us?
 - 1. Do we have a faith that is also commended by the Lord? See Hebrews 11:1-6.
 - 2. This is something that we must strive to walk in every day (2 Corinthians 5:7)!

II. He commended people for having a pure heart.

- A. Jesus knew what kind of heart Nathaniel had (John 1:47-50).
 - 1. He knew that his heart had no deceit and evil.
 - 2. He knew that Nathaniel had a pure heart before even meeting him personally!
- B. What about us?
 - 1. Do we possess a heart like Nathaniel?
 - 2. The Lord demands that we do (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 5:8).

III. He commended people for providing service.

- A. Mary sacrificed much to serve Jesus (Mark 14:3-9).
 - 1. Many ridiculed her act of service.
 - 2. The Lord commended and defended her.
- B. What about us? Are we willing to serve the Lord like Mary?

IV. He commended people for being humble.

- A. Jesus describes two totally different people in Luke 18:9-14.
 - 1. One was a self-righteous Pharisee.
 - 2. The other was a humble tax collector. This was the man who pleased God!
- B. What about us?
 - 1. Are we more like the Pharisee?
 - 2. Or, are we like the tax collector?
 - 3. The Lord commends and exalts people who are willing to humble themselves before Him.

Conclusion: The only thing that really matters is what the Lord _____.