

## David's Biblical Studies Template

### Three evaluations of your ministry are possible

*My service survives God's flaming evaluation*

*My service does not survive*

*My service destroys God's work*

*How can you fix this?*

### Paul's "So What?"

*How to view yourselves, 3:18-21*

The worst form of deception is self-deception, 3:18a

*These Corinthians were self deceived.*

**We know that. We don't need help. We've got this figured out**

You think you are wise, 3:18b

The only way to become wise is to become a fool, 3:18c

**Admit how little you know so you can begin to learn. Recognition of one's ignorance is the starting point for wisdom.**

**"A man doesn't know what he knows until he knows what he doesn't know."**

There are 3 stages of learning:

**Fool:** doesn't know what he doesn't know, he thinks he knows but doesn't have a clue

**Wise:** knows what he doesn't know, he understands that he needs help, he knows he falls far short

**Good:** knows what he knows

This is biblical, 3:19, 20

*Paul sites Job 5:13 and Psalm 94:11 in support*

### **What does that mean?**

Don't have a wrong view of your leaders, 3:21-23

*Don't be divisive and boast about your "particular leader," 3:21*

**I am of Pastor Tom, I am of Pastor Webb.**

**This is not "smorgasbord" theology**

***You can't pick your leader based upon your wisdom system.***

*Do see that all your leaders belong to everybody, 3:22a*

You can't pick and choose, you must follow all that they teach

*Do see that the future belongs to everybody, 3:22b-*

Our future and inheritance are the same.

*Do see that we serve the same Christ and God, 3:23b*

A right view of leaders, 4:1-5

*What they are*

**Servants, 4:1**

***Not same as 3:5, "one who works under the authority of another" Emphasis here is "under authority"***

***One who works as a subordinate, bound to obey his superior. One who works under the order of a superior and has no significance without the authority. Emphasis here is "bound to obey"***

**Stewards, "those entrusted," NIV, 4:1**

***One who manages a master's goods and must give account to the master. They are responsible for overseeing operations as instructed. A steward may have extensive power but will be held accountable for his stewardship. A steward is not an owner, he is a manager (see Luke 14:42; 16:8-12). Emphasis here is on the authority of a steward. He is not an owner, but he does have authority and you better obey him.***

*Who are they responsible to*

Christ...God

We are your ministers (3:21c-22a)... we minister to you but are accountable to God, not you.

*What is the chief evaluation, 4:2*

Not eloquence, not entertainment value, not success in your eyes, but dependability in God's eyes

Faithful

*Trustworthy in the proclamation of and execution of the message of God*

*In season and out of season*

*What is not the chief evaluation, 4:3, 4*

Paul is not being defensive

Paul is saying, "What you think about what I teach is not the most important thing. Whether you like it or not is not the main thing."

Paul is saying not even what I think about me is the main thing, 4:3

Don't judge your ministry or your leaders by its/their current "success," 4:5a

*Wait until the day that God brings things to light*

Do be concerned that you are being faithful to the apostolic message, 4:5b

**So what?**