**"THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS"**

**Chapter Three**

**OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER**

1) How Paul addresses the proper place of preachers and teachers in relation to

 their work or their calling.

2) To appreciate God's view of the church as the temple of God.

**SUMMARY**

Paul continues to deal with the problem of division in this chapter.

Its seriousness is seen in its carnality, which prevented Paul from

being able to speak as to spiritually mature people (**1-4**).

To help them see the folly of exalting preachers over each another, Paul shows their relation to one another and to their work, which is building the

temple of God (**5-17**).

To the warning not to defile the temple of God,

Paul adds another not to glory in the wisdom of this world nor in men

(**18-23**).

**OUTLINE**

**I. THE CARNAL NATURE OF DIVISION (1-4) If we ever want to see divisions in a church it will begin with carnal Christians.**

 **A. CARNAL CHRISTIANS AT CORINTH (1-2)It was the carnality of some of the person in the church of Corinth that….**

 1. Prevented Paul from speaking to them as to spiritual people

 (**1a**)

 2. Their carnality indicated that they were still babes in

 Christ, unable to receive solid food (**1b-2**)

 **B. EVIDENCE OF THEIR CARNALITY (3-4)**

 1. The envy, strife, and divisions among them (**3**)

 2. As expressed in their calling themselves after men (**4**)

**II. RELATION OF PREACHERS TO THEIR WORK (5-17)**

 **A. PREACHERS ARE SERVANTS, USED BY GOD (5-7)**

 1. Ministers given the opportunity to serve God in various ways

 (**5-6a**)

 2. But one thing we must never forget…. it is God who gives the increase (**6b-7**)

 **B. THEIR RELATION TO ONE ANOTHER AND THEIR WORK (8-17)**

 1. United in their work, though their labor and rewards may

 differ (**8**)

 2. Fellow workers with God, they work on God's building (**9**)

 a. Laying the foundation (as Paul did) of Jesus Christ (**10-11**)

 b. Building upon the foundation, using various materials to be

 tested at the Last Day (**12-15**)

 3. Paul issues out a A strong warning, since this building is the temple of God and indwelt by the Spirit. (**16-17**)

**III. AVOID GLORYING IN WORLDLY WISDOM OR MEN (18-23)**

 **A. REASONS NOT TO GLORY IN WORLDLY WISDOM (18-20)**

 1. You will only deceive yourself (**18**) know why?

 2. The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God (**19-20**)

 **B. REASONS NOT TO GLORY IN MEN (21-23)**

 1. All things (including men) are yours (**21-22**)

 2. You are Christ's, and Christ is God's (**23**)

**END CHAPTER 3**