

# 1 Corinthians 4 Worksheet

## Read

Please read the verses listed above three times from at least two different translations. It is recommended to use at least one 'word for word' translation (NKJV, NASB, ESV) and at least one 'thought by thought' translation (NLT, NIV, CSB). Meditate and pray on the passage.

## Cultural Snapshot/Historical Background

Paul is addressing the Corinthians on some key topics that should be fresh in their memory from his visit to them. Paul brings up key topics such as being stewards, examples, sufferers, and correctors. What do we know about Paul and his relationship with the Corinthians at this time? Why would these have more validity coming from Paul to the Corinthians?

Geographically we know that Corinth was a prosperous city that had been rebuilt around a hundred years earlier by Julius Caesar. They had experienced a long period of prosperity. Years before the writing of this letter they had Paul himself there teaching them for a year and a half (Acts 18:11). Think of Corinth as the New York of today. These people were rich, living the life of ease. The last thing they wanted was to give up the leisure and riches of this world and seek eternal riches.

Paul reminds them of the importance of being stewards of Christ. In v8 he points out they had become rich in the flesh. Paul was a servant to them while he was still making his own living by making tents (Acts 18:3). He reminds them in v5 how they are quick to judge but should let God judge. In Acts 18:12-15 they took him to court and were told that this was a matter of God's teaching not man's. Paul is reminding them of this they had already gone through when he was there. In v9-13 he points to the poor treatment one can expect as a follower of Christ. This is the difficult message that the prosperous do not want to hear. Here they were in the most wealthy city in the region and Paul is reminding them how he lived when he was there and that they need to seek out the riches of Christ like they seek the riches of the world. He ends up the chapter (v14-16) with the contrast of their inability to follow his example when he is not present, pointing out to them how much more they need to follow Christ the same as He will return with the same expectation.

## Verse Breakdown

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

1 Corinthians 4:6-13

1 Corinthians 4:14-21

## Observation

Critically observe the text in its context. Notate the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of this passage. Observations should be made considering the verse breakdown above. Write down your observations in your notebook or the space below.

Who: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Extra Observations

### Purposeful Parallels

In this section look for parallels from within this passage to other parts of the Bible. This could be similar stories with similar narratives. It could be how individual characters relate to or remind you of other characters in the Bible from other stories. Write down any parallels in your notebook or the space below.

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### Repeated Words/Thoughts/Phrases

As a subsection of your observations, notate repeated words in the passage and how many times they repeated. You may also write repeated thoughts or phrases. Write down any repeated words/thoughts/phrases in your notebook or the space below.

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### Word Study/Definitions

As you study the passage you may feel led to perform word studies on particular words in the passage. Perhaps you'd like to perform a word study on the repeated word(s) from above. This is your chance to do just that. Write down any discoveries in your notebook or the space below.

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## For extra study:

### Interpretation

Now that we have determined what the text says, move into interpretation. The meaning of the text is not subjective. The goal of interpretation is to discover God's intended meaning for the text we just read and provided observations for. Write down your interpretations in your notebook or the space below. **Please note:** if you are not comfortable with this portion of the Inductive process, then please do not worry about completing this section. As time goes on it'll become possible and easier for you as this will be discussed in group time.

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## Application

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