1 Corinthians 2:14-4:13 Pt. 2

Charles Feinberg

Feinberg:

Christ Comes. Penetrating gaze. It's the testing fire of God's discernment. All will be judged according to God's standards. Not the world's standards and not any earthly government standards to see. What. Kind it is to see the quality that's of what sort. Literally each man's work is the word sort is important not how much it is. Notice that or how many deeds they are but of what kind. God always, hear it, God always looks on the heart. A skeptic once said to his dying fellow unbeliever. Hold on. Hold on. The awful answer was but what am I to hold on to. Going into eternity friends and nothing to hold on to is a frightful. Unthinkable predicament. May God protect you from that sinking and no foundation? Christ is the only foundation and bless God. It is a firm one and all we will ever need and verse fourteen says if a man's work is built on that foundation remains he's going to receive a reward. You see we've indicated that this is for reward and here's the proof of it.

Believer gets the reward the reward isn't heaven or eternal life or salvation. Why that's not a reward that's a gift. We never did anything to get into heaven. Not anything to be the recipient of eternal life. Let's not get our scriptural details mixed up this salvation is not a reward. It's a gift. This is for saved ones. So it's in addition to salvation it's things that we get crowns five crowns mentioned as rewards for believers and those crowns it will be marvelous to be able to
cast them at the blessed precious feet of the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. He is worthy it belongs to him. He took the crown of thorns on his brow. And why shouldn't we take that. Crown of reward. And cast it from our brow. At his blessed feet that were pierced for us. And we read in verse 15 if a man's work has burned up. How would it be burned up? Well gold and silver and precious stones aren't burned up but if it's wood hay and stubble, wood hay and straw.

My friends that'll burn up in nothing flat he'll suffer loss suffer loss but he himself will be saved yet so as through fire no reward for it but it will be wiped out yet so as by fire if there should be the case of one whose servants has not been acceptable at all he'll be saved. But if by fire with no reward is like escaping from a burning building with nothing but your life like the example Lot everything he worked for was lost for good. But he was delivered the apostle here is looking at the worst possible case. He doesn't state that God will find that condition in you or me that is as stubborn. Yes he is looking at the worst possible case because he does state that God will find something in all. Does he really. Yes. Chapter 4. Verse 5. Therefore don't go on passing judgement before the time but wait until the Lord comes who both will bring to light the hidden.

Hear it. The things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts and then each man's praise will come to him from God. Yes each one is going to have something that God will find. Now what's this suffer loss. Suppose I saw three young children and I said I would like some of the berries they are picked. And for each quart I will give you so much. At the end of the day one brings in say ten courts one brings in twenty one brings in thirty one brings in forty so on. Well what do I do? I don't put the one who brought in ten into jail. I don't say you didn't bring in enough. I'm going to throw out these ten quarts. No. He gets a reward. For the ten quarts but he doesn't get as much as the thirty quart worker or the forty or the fifty. He suffers
loss. He gets a reward for what he's done now. If there be a man who. Gets. Very little he'll suffer loss could have got more.

He's going to be saved yet so as through fire remember we're indicating that everyone will have some reward but with some I'm afraid it will be minimal. You remember the hymn we sing must I go. An empty hand. Plus my dear Redeemer meets. No let's see that we have many here bringing in the sheaves bringing in the sheaves we read in verse sixteen do you not know that you're a temple of God if you talk about a building and that requires cooperation unity. Teamwork. Do you not know that you're a temple of God? The Spirit of God dwells in you. If any man destroys the temple of God will destroy him for the temple of God is holy. And that is what you are. Who. Is it. That's the temple of God. Every believer in the world. I care not what denomination one may be I care not what Church government or polity. He may be under. He may be in a place where there are no other believers at all in a portion of the world. But he is a temple of God because the Spirit of God dwells in him.

Now. Unsaved and ungodly in verse 17 who creep into the church and make havoc of the things of God. That's another thing their end is definitely destruction. If any man destroys. That's not a Christian man. But if any man destroys the temple of God if he tries to work havoc there God's going to destroy him. Now that would never be said of a believer. Here is a man who's unsaved and ungodly and has crept in and he's been a faker. He's been untrue he's not genuine making havoc of the things of God. God will take care of him because the temple of God is holy and that's what you are. And then he says let no man let no man deceive himself if any man among you thinks that he's wise in this age let him become foolish that he may become wise. I suppose that was one of the areas frankly in which there was a lot of contention.
That's the wisdom when he says that a man if any man among you thinks he's wise that's the wisdom not the knowledge it's about the wisdom his philosophy outlook his goals any man. And let no man deceive himself with any man among you thinks he's wise in this age let him be. I would be willing to take the lower place the humble place the self-sacrifice in place and become foolish that he may become wise. Yes that's what it takes in verse 19 for the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God he's mentioned that in the first chapter for its written he is the one who catches the wise in their craftiness it doesn't take God long to show them for what they are they don't know as much as they do. And again the Lord knows the reasoning of the wise that they are useless in the last analysis friends God has put it to naught in verse twenty also he has put the wisdom of this world. They were all so wise.

They were also educated. And isn't it interesting that when. Greek wisdom. And Roman wisdom and even Jewish wisdom what at a height when it was the shall I say the instrument was finely honed that instrument of wisdom. Oh God showed that all of it came to nothing they couldn't save themselves. Greek philosophy was bankrupt and Roman power and law were bankrupt. And Jewish adherence to additional laws. All these. Were. Bankrupt. Now. He says so then let no one boast in man for all things belong to you. He had mentioned that in the first chapter. Well no need to take stock in me because we have everything. Remember we have everything from God. And so a man once who suffered for his Protestantism in the reign of Henry the third of France made this fitting remark. I have no other property. Than Heaven and Earth all was his according to God's wonderful promise. And so he says. All things belong to you. Why not boast in the things of God.

Don't boast in what man can do. Don't boast in a Paul. Don't boast in Apollos and he goes on to say [inaudible] the things present things to come. All those things belong to you. Why do
you want to shut yourself up into a little cubbyhole and paint yourself into a corner with one or
the other? No. You belong to Christ all things belong to you. How because you belong to Christ
and Christ belongs to God and you have an inalienable inheritance. Everything under high
heaven belongs to you. You say well my. I certainly don't deserve it. Of course not. It's all of
grace and none of works. You belong to Christ. Christ belongs to God. Think of it. Folks that are
scrounging around and worrying about this little thing and that little thing that they can acquire.
Don't you know that all things that are important belong to? And wasn't it foolish for a man to
say I'm just of a Paul Why. Paul was meant to help you and Apollos and Cephas The world. Life.
Or death or things present or things to come.

They're all within the range and limits of what God wanted to do. For all believers why
take a mere pittance when you can have all belongs to you. You belong to Christ and Christ
belongs to God. A rich man. He was a believer. Thank God. He lost all his money had happened
before. It happens often in our day. And this is the remarkable statement that he said. My what a
victor he was in the things that really matter. He said formally I brought God into all things.
Now. I have all things in God what a world of difference and how blessedly true how marvelous
was that man's condition. My friends we are all so taken up with things that we see too many
people. Are using people and men and women. They're using God's creatures to get things when
God wants us to use things. To help people. To help them eternally to help them. To see their
need of the Lord Jesus Christ. And having received him. To enjoy eternal life throughout all
eternity and all it takes is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. And thou shalt be saved. Christ Jesus
suffered. The righteous one. For us the unrighteous he died the just for us the unjust that he
might bring us to God.
We have all things unto God. Paul writing to Timothy says God has richly given us all things to enjoy richly not miserly not stingingly not in. A begrudging manner but he has given us bountifully, richly all things to enjoy. I want to read it again. All things belong to you and you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God. You say well I don't feel like it. God said so. That settles it. Believe it friend.

Announcer:

The talk you have just heard is one of a series of messages from the Book of First Corinthians taught by Dr. Charles L. Feinberg the third and final talk on this cassette will begin in just a few moments. These messages were originally heard on the new standard for living radio broadcast produced by Lockman Bible ministries translators of the New American Standard Bible. The Amplified Bible. And Bible translations in many languages around the world. If you would like more information about this unusual Ministry of Bible translation and publication we invite you to write to us at New Standard for Living post office box 5999. Sunny Hills California. 92635. By the way study notes for this series are also available free from the same address. And now here is Dr. Feinberg with his next message. In this series from First Corinthians.

Feinberg:

Today friends we come to the fourth chapter. Of First Corinthians. And Paul is still. Thinking along the lines of the need in the Corinthian church to be unified to see issues properly to evaluate the ministries of servants of God in the proper light and their own ministry for that matter. And Paul's ministry as well. He doesn't tell them to make an exception for him and so in
this fourth chapter he's still working wonderfully and carefully and masterfully toward this one question of Church disorder. Sects. And party strife. In. The local church. So this little man regardless in this manner as servants of Christ and stewards of the mistress of God. In this case moreover is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. Now there is a tremendous need in churches. To regard. Those who serve us. In the proper way. Let's regard them as servants of Christ. And stewards. That is those who are committed are entrusted. With the mysteries of God the substance the content of the faith as it were.

Now the tendency with us is either to exalt the servants of Christ unduly or to esteem them very lightly. Now both frankly are wrong and definitely indicated against in this passage. They are to be regarded servants and stewards servants. We realized bought slaves sold out to Christ. What do we mean by stewards? Those who have a commitment which they must faithfully discharge on behalf of others. Let me repeat that stewards. Those who have a commitment and entrustment which they must faithfully discharge on behalf of others. You've heard it today very commonly someone complains about what one's doing. I'm only doing my job. Well whether folk like our ministry or not whether they find fault with it or not. We must say I must obey God rather than man. And they are stewards. They have been entrusted. They have had deposited with them the mysteries. That doesn't mean. Things still secret. When he says the mysteries of God how can they be a steward of that which they know nothing of these things.

Now revealed for our benefit they are to treat them in such a way that they make them available. They make them readily accessible understandable to the people of God. Deuteronomy twenty nine twenty nine your remember says the secret things belong unto the Lord our God but the things that he has revealed belong unto us and unto our children forever. And wasn't that a marvelous word which our Lord Jesus gave in what we call the upper room discourse of John 14
through 17 and John 16 12 and 13. He says I don't call you servants because the servant knows not what his master does but I call you friends. He's made us thank God his confidence he has confided in us. He has entrusted to us the things of the world and he indicates just plainly. And forthright. In this case moreover. In the case of the gospel it is required of stewards. That one is found trustworthy. The single requirement hears it of such a steward is faithfulness not public acclaim. Not. Public or even private approbation. The single necessity. For anyone who has been put in trust with something with a commitment is faithfulness. Have you carried it out in the way that. Was. Required of you. Not public acclaim not approbation not even how you feel. I've heard so many say. Well I think I ought to remain in the ministry because it gives me a good feeling. No.

Single requirement is not even feeling good or even. Indicating that you are acceptable among folk because you straighten out some of their life problems and difficulties. No. Be faithful and these other things will come. Oh how important that is. It's so easy to be one play to the galleries. Paul said I have striven not to be a man pleaser else. I would not be a servant of Christ. Let's not be. Waiting for the plaudits and the applause of men. There was a well-known. Scottish university professor. Was asked to give a religious address at a fashionable select club in the West End of London. And this well-known Scottish university professor began in this way. Gentlemen. The entrance fee into the Kingdom of Heaven is nothing. The yearly subscription is everything. That's it. God wants nothing less nothing more nothing else than our faithfulness. Give him our all. And certainly. There will be the approval of God. Approval of God worth infinitely more than any approval of men.

Now in some cases as with Paul with the martyrs the martyrs that were in Ecuador a martyred by the [inaudible] those things of course. Are not the normal procedure but faithfulness
may call for that be faithful unto death. And I will give you. A crown of life. But. Some. Minister in churches in. Faraway places. Some minister. Very unknown unheralded unsung. But my dear friends if they're faithful they have the basic requirement. And he goes on. But to me it's a very small thing that I should be examined by you or by any human court. In fact I do not even examine myself and for ministers or any who would serve the Lord. This is a very important passage because somewhere along the line we do begin to manifest very human tendencies and traits to say well I do not want to be thought of as one who is acceptable even Jeremiah said why I am made a man of contention to all men.

He says I'm not allowed to do this I'm not allowed to do that I'm not allowed to do the other we like to be well thought of But Paul says even though that is a natural desire and a natural tendency. But he says I have made it my purpose. Not to be concerned so much by what you think of me what the result of your examination of my life is or by any human court and the original says day man has his day man's judgment man's day. Oh he says that's not the all-important. Now doubtless the minister of Christ in the performance of his duties is going to be subjected too much criticism but that is not to swerve him from the path of duty. If every minister quit when he first felt. The blast. Of adverse the wind of. Adverse criticism my there would be very few in the ministry today Paul indicated that as long as he did what the Lord desired as long as he pleased the Lord Jesus he wasn't concerned in the last analysis how would appeal to the Corinthians to whom he ministered.

It doesn't mean that he tried to be obnoxious and tried to make them think little of him and tried to make them hate him. No. If he had no influence with them then the gospel in his ministry wouldn't be very acceptable. He didn't. But he says I don't make it my final objective and goal as to what man thinks in the last analysis. The time when man has his way until the
coming of Christ for his own is called The Human day. Or man's day or man's judgment and he go on to say I do not in fact I do not even examine myself. What do you mean by that? Does even try to be alert and didn't scripture tell us in 2 Corinthians examine yourself to see whether you be in the faith.

Paul said that to the Corinthians in his second letter Oh it doesn't mean that here. He's not denying. That we are to examine ourselves there. But that's in order to evaluate the reality of our profession. Here it is in another matter he says I don't even try to evaluate my own service. I'm not. Every. Other day thinking well now I'm going to take out all the work I'm to lay it out for myself here on my desk. I'm going to see what I've done and what's worthy and so on. Let me see how I am. Pleasing God. 10 percent today. Fifty eighty seventy. We're not to try to evaluate our own service how much reward is I going to get for having done this or having done that. No one is able to do it as the Lord can. He knows all the issues. Let's leave it with him. I'm conscious of nothing at the moment he wrote he says I'm conscious of nothing against myself yet I am not by this acquitted but the one who examines me is the Lord he knows nothing in his ministry at the time of a detrimental or injurious nature but he doesn't go around saying patting himself on the back saying my what a wonderful fella am I.

No that doesn't settle the case. He may be doing things of whose results he's not aware. In other words he realized that God judges all things in the proper manner. At the proper time. With a proper. Yardstick and in absolute truth. Shouldn't that be? The marvelous condition of all of us. Some days when you're very discouraged you don't think you've accomplished anything. Leave it with the Lord. He may see many things there. That you don't see at all. I remember on occasion. Having preached. And I was preaching in the epistle to the Romans. And I thought oh my how
little have I accomplished got home mentioned to my wife who had been at the service. I said I
don't think I got to first base on that and that very day. I had a call.

From one of my students in seminary class. Said he. He was in the service and he just had
to call. He didn't make that. A regular habit of his but he just thought he ought to call and tell
how much of a blessing that message was to him. Thank God. Leave it to the Lord. We do
impress people. We do influence. Even when we may not realize it and it may have been one of
the things that went into his preparation that we didn't realize. He went in more. That's some
other things that we may have thought impressed him more he was used of God. Later on in his
life to minister in the near east in missionary work. And now. Is in a seminary serving in the
north eastern part of our country. So Paul says therefore do not go on passing judgment before
the time we're always quick on the trigger to pass judgement but wait until the Lord comes to
both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts.
And then each man praise will come to him from God.

Judge nothing before that we're not to take the place of the Lord. He'll judge the Saints
for rewards on his return. Now we have to remember that sometimes we tell folks well why did
you judge me right on SNAP JUDGMENT why didn't you wait? We want them. To wait. And
coolly. And calmly and soberly evaluate things we ought to do that for them as well. It should go
on don't go on passing judgement before the time we need to ask God to develop in us patience.
James writes the simplest patients have a perfect world. Let's not be like that young Christian
who earnestly. Said Lord teaches me patience. And then he showed how little he realized the
things of the faith. After he said Lord teaches me patience and does it right now. Well if it were
done right now. He wouldn't learn very much patience would he. God is the one who is going to
bring to light. To make manifest exactly what we cannot do even to. Whom we think we know so
much about evaluation. Oh we have our standards. We have our standards of excellence. We have our models. We have our evaluation sheets and all the rest.

Remember. It's God. Let's wait until he comes. The Lord Jesus. He will come and he will bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives. Did you hear that word? It's the motive. What impels and compels and propels you in service. It's the motives. What were your intentions? In your heart. Each man prays. Will come to him from God. All believers will have something for which they can give more. Is this not true even of the penitent thief on the cross. Did you ever think of that? Isn't that even true. Of the penitent thief. On the cross concerning the Lord Jesus. He did witness. To the penitent thief concerning the Lord Jesus Christ and his ability to see. He certainly did converted girl of 13 we're told was lying dying. A lady visitor. Asked her are you afraid to die. My child. Oh no she said. But what shall I say to Jesus when I meet him. I seem to have never done anything for him.

You see mother died when I was eight. This little girl was 13. She says mother died when I was eight. I try to do as she had done and took care of the four little ones. I kept the house tidy. And then I was too tired to do more. Taking the rough little hand in her own. The visitor with eyes full of tears said kindly. I would not say anything dear. I wouldn't say anything to the Lord my dear but to show him. Your hands. Yes. Each person will receive. Each believer. Will have something. For which he or she. May. Be. And will be. Rewarded. Read that verse often friend and don't leave out. The last clause. And then each man's praise will come to him. From God. So we read now these things brother. I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes enough you might learn not to exceed what's written In order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.
He has used himself and Apollos as examples in some of the things he was writing to the Corinthians. He says I have purposely used. Apollos and myself as examples and it's for your sake. Why. So that you will not. Exceed. What's written? The written word is to be the authority and the test. Outside of that all is speculation even from the best of men. Don't be arrogant in behalf of one against the other test everything by the word of God. Don't be puffed up. When men are made. The rallying point when they are made the center and focus of activity and of our allegiance and loyalty which belong to Christ alone remember when men are made a rallying point instead of the word of God. The result is there are pride and glorying over others. And if ever. Ever in the world there were. A good example of that the Corinthian Church was otherwise what Paul has been talking about all?

Through these. Chapters. Thus far. He has certainly been diagnosing and been doing a marvelous surgical work of cutting away the parts that are. Affected. And are seriously in danger just as a faithful surgeon would. And so he says. Who regards you? As superior. And what do you have that you did not receive. But if you did receive it why do you boast if he has not received it. What a verse. All are to use their gifts in dependence on the Holy Spirit. The things are not the accomplishments of our own minds. Why talk. About a certain superiority. Is it something that you have accomplished in your own wisdom in your own power in your own mind? What do you have that you didn't receive? If you have a certain talent if you have a certain propensity if you have a certain ability. You never got that on your own. It was given to you. How. Idiotic to boast about something that's a gift.

If you got a Christmas gift if you got a birthday gift you got an anniversary gift. Do you go around boasting look what I was able to get and what I was able to acquire. You didn't get it. Somebody gave it to you. Out of the goodness of their hearts. Well that's so obvious. That we
don't have to dwell on it. But don't we all have to. And so it says you're already filled. You have already become rich you've become kings without us. One Commentator commentators I read years ago said Paul points out to them. They're in decent haste. You already filled what. You don't need a thing you. You've already reached it. You're at the Acme. You've already become rich you've become kings without us. And I would indeed that you had become king so that we also might reign with you. You're just trying to be a little too fast a little too far ahead of yourselves. They were settling into self-complacency instead of realizing that the present is a time of trial. And self-denial. Oh we all would like to think we've made it we've attained we've hit the goal line.

Don't say that God's not through with you as some have little pins that they put on their lapels. Ladies on the dresses. Just the. Letters. Please. Be patient. With. Me. For God. Is not finished with me yet. Please be patient. God is not finished with me yet we're not already filled. We have not already become rich. Why act as if we've reached the ultimate. That we are. Just. Ready by our own effort to step into all the riches and glory of heaven we are we are made fit for it. But we're not rich. In this way. And filled it this way. And we have not attained to a coronation. Here on Earth. No. Settling into self-complacency. For I think God has exhibited us a puzzle last of all as men condemned to death because we have become a spectacle. To the world both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake. But you are prudent in Christ. We are weak but you're strong. You're distinguished but we are without. Honor. Yes. In other words.

As one Dear Student the word is said we're like men or already under sentence of death and going out to die. His apostles were, condemned to death. Men are looking at us also angels from heaven to see the lowliness and rejection of Christ in us. We've become a spectacle to the world both the angels and to men. Men are looking at us Angels as well. To see how well Christ
is reflected in us. What kind of examples. What kind of showcases are we. Because if all God wants. God has always in all honor all glory all goodness. What he's looking for us is showcase. Verse ten we are full for Christ's sake. The world looks at them as fools because they're denying this is the case to believe the world thinks we're the biggest fools we're denying ourselves the pleasures and pillage of the world.

And that was true. Paul was willing. To be considered a fool for Christ but he says you Corinthians are wise in Christ. They're believers but they want to be holding a place of prominence in the world. Oh my friends. What real service entails is this. Listen. To this present hour we're both hungry and thirsty and are poorly clothed and roughly treated and are homeless and we toil working with our own hands. When we are reviled we bless when we are persecuted we adore one we are slandered we try to conciliate we become as the scum of the world. Think of. The dirt of the ground the dregs of all things. Even until now. That's what real service until then why. In the name of heaven Paul says are you trying to make so much. Out. Of those. Who. Are only agents and tools in the hand of God? Spurgeon said I wish our churches would imitate. That of pastor harms in Germany where every member was consecrated to God. Indeed and the truth.

The farmers gave the produce of the lands the workingmen their labor one gave a large house to be used as a missionary college. It Pastor Harms obtained money for a ship which you fitted out to make voyages to Africa and then he sent missionaries a little companies of his people with him to form Christian communities among the Bushmen. When will our churches be equally self-denying and energetic? Let's not be swimming in the sea of the world with a the breaststroke everything toward me everything toward my life. I've got to get it all I've got to have it now. I've got to have the honor. I've got to have the prestige. I've got to have the fame I've got
to have the recognition. I've got to get the blue ribbons I've got to get the honorees that are awarded folk honor for this and honor for that and honor for the other. My dear friends hear it. We. Need to realize what real service entails some when they see that turn back.

The cost is more than they want to pay. That was the way with the Rich Ruler the Lord Jesus said have you done this that any other. He said yes I have kept those I have not stolen. I have not murdered. And so on. And the Lord said yes you have. Yes your true. You have. Done all those. Now what about your inner motive. Will you be willing to sell all and give to the poor? And he was rich and he went away sorrowful and the Lord Jesus loved him. As a creature of his. And yet. Our Lord Jesus was saddened. Over. The rejection of the kind of life that's part and parcel. Of. Being. A follower of the one who was rejected. We need to be rejected and just as those who were rejected in David's Day the discontents and the malcontents they were with him in the cave of [inaudible]. But one day when he came into the kingship they were part of the realm. They were made officers in the realm. They were part of the court oh be willing. To suffer these things. All that it entails. In order that you may enjoy. The glories that will be given us.

Announcer:

This concludes the series of messages on this cassette. If you would like a free catalogue of other Bible study cassettes available. Or free study notes for this series. Please address your letter of request to. New Standard for living post office box 5 9 9 9. Sunny Hills California 9 2 6 3 5. We thank you for your interest and prayerful support of this ministry.

[End]