



Daily Reflections

September 3, 2016

Scripture

1 Corinthians 4:6-15

Brothers and sisters:

Learn from myself and Apollos not to go beyond what is written, so that none of you will be inflated with pride in favor of one person over against another.

Who confers distinction upon you?

What do you possess that you have not received?

But if you have received it,

why are you boasting as if you did not receive it?

You are already satisfied; you have already grown rich; you have become kings without us!

Indeed, I wish that you had become kings, so that we also might become kings with you.

For as I see it, God has exhibited us Apostles as the last of all, like people sentenced to death, since we have become a spectacle to the world,

to angels and men alike.

We are fools on Christ's account, but you are wise in Christ;

we are weak, but you are strong;

you are held in honor, but we in disrepute.

To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty,

we are poorly clad and roughly treated,

we wander about homeless and we toil, working with our own hands.

When ridiculed, we bless; when persecuted, we endure;

when slandered, we respond gently.

We have become like the world's rubbish, the scum of all,

to this very moment.

I am writing you this not to shame you,

but to admonish you as my beloved children.

Even if you should have countless guides to Christ,

yet you do not have many fathers,

for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.

Our Scripture Reflection

Not unlike many in our society today, the Corinthians had a skewed notion of what makes a person great: power, money, wisdom, knowledge. Paul teaches them that true greatness is not something someone can earn or bestow on oneself. For Paul, giving all to Christ and for the sake of His Kingdom while not seeking recognition or personal gain is what makes one "great" in the eyes of Christ. Only He has the purgative to acknowledge a person's status in His Kingdom.

Food for your Journey

We come to love not by finding the perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly.

--Sam Keen, *To Love and Be Loved* (Bantam, 1999).

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, remove all arrogance and selfish ambition from my heart. May my heart's first desire always be to glorify You. Amen.