

Puffed Up

Lesson 4

I Corinthians 4:1 - 5:13

Introduction

In this section the apostle Paul makes a personal appeal for the Corinthians to avoid the sin of being puffed up. We see their sin being manifested in several ways: 1.) toward Paul as some were apparently both judging him and complaining that he had not come to them as promised, 2.) toward each other (4:6,7) and 3.) regarding a fornicating brother in their midst.

Paul gives them reasons why each form of being puffed up was wrong and specifically explains what actions they should take. We might add this sin to that of reliance on human wisdom as another cause of so many of their problems.

Paul the Steward - 4:1-5

1. What did Paul want to be seen as?
2. Why was Paul unconcerned about the Corinthians judging him?
3. Use vs. 4 to explain why a conscience frequently is not a good guide. How did Paul know this from personal experience?
4. What will the Lord do when He returns?

The Sin of being Puffed Up - 4:6-21

1. What lesson did Paul say he was teaching in 4:1-5?
2. Why should they not glory?
3. How did the apostles appear to the world? Read II Corinthians 11:23-27.

4. What was the purpose of Paul's writing to the Corinthians?
5. How had some reacted to Paul's failure to return to Corinth? Why had Paul not returned? If Paul had come what would have been his spirit?

The Sinful Brother - 5:1-13

1. Paul addresses this issue both for the specific case and in general.
2. What was the man's sin? What was particularly heinous about it?
3. Why and how was Paul able to judge the man?
4. What was the danger to the Corinthians?
5. What had Paul written them before?
6. Why were they to be less concerned about the sinners of the world? Who would judge the world?