



January 21, 2018 Discussion Guide

Contrast: *Chasing the Right Stuff*

I Corinthians 3

Introduction:

At the close of Acts chapter 18 you can read how Paul met a charismatic guy named Apollos, taught him, baptized him, and sent him off to Corinth to encourage the church there. Paul planted the church in Corinth, and Apollos was building on what Paul started. But – a problem arose out of these two men teaming their leadership. Read I Corinthians chapter 3 and discuss how to maintain spiritual maturity and proper focus in the life of our church.

Discussion Questions

1. As Paul evaluates the maturity level of the Christians in Corinth, lining up behind leaders in the church seems to be a primary source of division among them, a sign that they are still immature in their faith. What do you feel are the best ways to recognize and correct immaturity in the life of a church in a positive proactive way?
2. It can be easy for people these days to be critical of the church overall, and especially the local church they are a part of. On the contrary, Paul elevates the standing of the local church. He says we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, God's central headquarters here on this earth. The church should be elevated and protected. What are 5 good things you can say about the church you are involved in?
3. The Apostle Paul said that any local church should be built with the things Christ considers to be most valuable. What are the things Parkside [that's us!], is working toward that would be considered the gold, silver and precious stones that Paul references? Are there things we are doing that we perhaps should discontinue, understanding that they may be more in the wood, hay and straw category?
4. As you look at the course of your life, when have you built with gold, silver, and precious stones? When have you built with wood, hay, and straw? Was there a particular time in life when it suddenly dawned on you what life should about and what you should be focusing on?



5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10 How do we go about reconciling the fact that we are saved by grace through faith and not by our good works [Ephesians 2:8-9] with what Paul says here and in I Corinthians 3. How do our works and deeds figure into the final accounting when we stand before Jesus?

Moving Forward: *Let's face it – life requires us to spend time in some necessary stuff that doesn't really have eternal significance. Putting a new roof on the house isn't eternal – but you gotta do it sometimes. If Jesus returned today, how much of what you are doing or have done today will survive the destruction of the world, and be eternally valuable? What aspects of your daily life will more than likely burn to a crisp in eternity [including the roof]? Are there ways you would like to alter your present focus in life to tip the scale more in favor of things eternal? Can you be specific about that? Or – maybe you feel you are in pretty good shape in that regard, and if so . . . Great!.*