

## *Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing*

### 1 Corinthians – Chapters 4-5

February 14, 2011

OPEN: In groups of three or four, share your name, what service you attend here at St. Andrew's, and tell of someone in your life who was a mentor or an example for you.

REVIEW:

What problem with the Corinthian congregation did Paul address in chapter 1?  
How did he address it?

What did he say about the leaders of the Corinthian congregation, about himself and Apollos?

What does he say about those who claim to be wiser than others in the conflict?

STUDY:

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5. How are the Corinthians to think of Paul and Apollos?

What do these mean?

To whom are Paul and Apollos to give account for their actions and words?

What does Paul ask the Corinthians not to do?

How can we apply this teaching to our time?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:6-7. In verse 6, what is Paul concerned is happening among the Corinthians?

What does he remind them of in verse 7 that guards against such false thinking?

How can we apply this teaching to our time?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:8-13. How does Paul contrast himself and Apollos with the Corinthians?

What do Paul and Apollos do when attacked, that is different from who the Corinthians are responding?

How can we apply this teaching to our time?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:14-20. Whom does Paul encourage the Corinthians to imitate?

Why?

What relationship does Paul claim to have with the Corinthians?

How does this relationship inform our understanding of what he writes at the end of this chapter?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-2. What problem has surfaced in the community?

How does the community respond to this?

Why is this a problem?

What does Paul argue should have been done?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:3-8. What are the Corinthians told to do with this man?

What does that mean?

What would the Corinthians be boasting about, in verse 6?

Instead of this, what are they to do?

What does this mean?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. Who are we to avoid, and not to avoid, according to this passage?

How can we apply this teaching to our time?

### REFLECT

What happens to salvation by grace through faith if we can throw people out of the church?