

I Corinthians 3:4-9

Christian Service

Introduction:

The book by Michael Green, The New Life: A friend came to Michael to describe his new found Christian life in the words something like this: 'It's like a cyclist who, when he is climbing a long hill, thinks when he reaches the top he will be able to free-wheel down the other side. But it's not until he reaches the top that he sees that his task has only just started and the road winds on with even steeper hills that the one he has just climbed.' The apostle Paul here directs our attention to Christian Service and the labor that's involved before we can see the fruit. Even when the fruit does come it's not because of us, because none of us can cause anything to grow. (Ezek. 36:26-27)

I. God's Servants – v.4-5

A. **Paul and Apollos's role**

1. Their function – “that” not “who” v.5
2. Table waiters – “Servants” (Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:8,12; I Tim. 5:17; Tit,1:5)
3. Pastors and Elders are not to be put on pedestals.

B. **Agriculture –v.6**

1. Illustrates the farmers role
2. Past tense – (plant and water)
3. God's action is continuous

II. God Causes the Growth v.6-9

A. **Instruments in God's hand v.6**

B. **Unity in the Body of Christ v.7**

1. Each preacher dependent upon each other
2. Each preacher receives his own – Turn To: Luke 10:1-20
3. Every believer that makes up the body of Christ –Turn To: I Cor. 12:3-7

C. **Ministers are nothing compared to God:**

1. Paul is not depreciating the work of preachers – Rom. 10:14,15
2. God is to be given the glory because God causes the growth
3. The ministries of Jeremiah and Jonah – I Cor. 15:10

D. **Fellow Laborers – v.9**

1. Notice the emphasis three times – God's fellow workers, God's field, God's building.
2. Christian Service Assignments

Conclusion:

1. *Avail yourself of the kinds of Christian Service we have listed.*
2. *Volunteer for these ministries according to our spiritual gifts.*

