

1 Corinthians 4:8-21

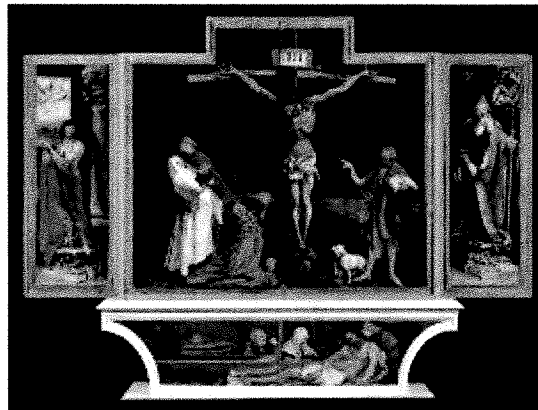
1. Review

8-13

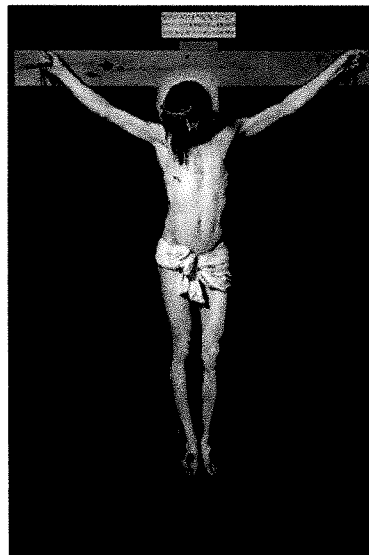
1. Paul's argument in chapters 1-4 reaches its high point and conclusion here.
2. Verse 8 should be read sarcastically.
 - a. What we see is that the Corinthians had poor understanding of eschatology.
 - i. They had already attained full spiritual maturity
 - ii. Not for them is the attitude of beggar, "the poor in spirit" who "hunger and thirst for righteousness".
 - iii. They don't have to struggle with the now not yet tension.
 - iv. What then do they have to look forward to?
3. They have become like the church in Laodicea (Rev. 3:17).
4. It becomes clear that the Corinthians struggled with the "now not yet" paradox, specifically being in God's kingdom at that very time and yet waiting for it.
5. Paul then compares himself (and the other apostles) to what the Corinthians are going through. Already the riot in Ephesus where Gaius and Aristarchus were beaten, Paul was thrown into jail, Stephen and James had been killed, and much more had taken place. Romans wasn't written yet but it's easy to think of Romans 8:36.
6. As Paul lists the hardships he and the other apostles are going through, the question becomes, how does he view the hardships and how should the Corinthians view them.
 - a. Colossians 1:24
 - b. Philippians 3:10
 - c. 2 Corinthians 4:10-12
7. "Scum" and "refuge" Paul probably picks up from Lamentations 3:45.

14-21

1. What was Paul's goal for writing the section above?
2. **παιδαγωγός**- tutor or guardian. In Greek culture was a slave (high ranking one) who would oversee education. However, they could come and go and be replaced, but no one could replace a father.
3. Notice, Paul wants to come to them but trusts in the Lord to take Paul where he is needed.
 - a. We do see in Acts 20:2-3 that Paul is able to make it back to Greece.
4. We should understand "power" as God's saving power in the crucified and risen Christ.



The Isenheim Altarpiece (16th Century)



Christ Crucified (c. 1632) by Diego Valezquez