

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE  
***THE CHURCH: BUILD ON MEN OR ON CHRIST?***  
**1 Corinthians 1:10-17, 2:1-5, 3:5-11**

**1. Minister-centered thinking rebuked – 1:10-17**

The problem in Corinth – factions centered on mere men.

What does this say today to personality-driven ministries & churches?

What should this say to Christ Presbyterian as you seek a new pastor?

What should this say to Christ Presbyterian when you have a new pastor and discover that he does things differently from what you have been used to for 27 years?

**2. Paul's Christ-centered ministry – 2:1-5**

Of what "greatness of wisdom & eloquence" was Paul capable?

What he chose to be and do, and why.

See 11:1 "*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*" (2 Tim.3:10f)

How should this guide Christ Presbyterian in seeking a pastor?

**3. God, not men, builds the church. - 3:5-11**

God *uses* servants He has called & gifted.

Matthew 16:18 – Jesus said: *I will build My church ...*"

All glory and praise to God alone – Father, Son, Spirit – for the growth in number & grace and the survival of His church.

How must God's "fellow-workers" build?

On the foundation of Christ alone (3:11, back to 2:1-5, no contradiction with Ephesians 2:20).

With materials of lasting quality (gold, silver, etc.) – that is, Gospel truth, prayer, example of faith & godliness, NOT the wood, hay, & stubble of the world's methods

2 Cor.10:4, 6:4-10)

The builders must answer to God for how they have built, 3:12-15, 4:1-5.

Therefore – pray most earnestly for your pastor (as you have), be slow to criticize and offer criticism in love for the purpose of helping the pastor & the church to grow in Christ, and base all such on the Word of God.