

Introduction to the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Colossians 1:3

What is...

Gold Silver and Precious Stones
and
Wood, Hay, Straw?

We saw the issue of **judgment** at the **Judgment Seat of Christ** was **'good'** and **'bad'**.

Almost everyone speaks of the **Gold, Silver** and **Precious Stones** of 1 Corinthians 3 in reference to the **Judgment Seat of Christ** of believers.

But we must interpret this chapter by the foundational hermeneutical principal of **CONTEXT**. So many people do not stay with the **CONTEXT** of a passage and, therefore, lose the true meaning and often come up with false doctrines. Let us take a look at the **CONTEXT** of this chapter and what Paul is teaching in this chapter.

1 Corinthians 3:

Even though we have the Mind of Christ, that is the Holy Spirit, it does not mean that we can now grasp all truth...

As introduced to us in these opening few verses.

note 1 Corinthians 2:6

6 **we do speak a wisdom among those who are mature**

Mature refers to those who have and are continuing to grow in the Knowledge of the Word of God.

So, we have the Mind of Christ—the Holy Spirit, but we must **grow** in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

Chapter 2: Contrasted believer with the unbeliever.

Chapter 3: Recognizes division in Body of Christ.

Now, in 1 Corinthians 3:1

The Greek construction introduces a new development but on the same subject. The believer has the Mind of Christ, has the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit, but must utilize the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in his life... daily.

1 **And I, Brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men**

Brethren—he puts this in here to remind them that they are saved, they are members of the Royal Family of God...

could not speak to you as to spiritual men,

could not *DUNAMAI*—able to do something, here with the negative “not able.”

Paul, here expresses that he is aware of why he is here and what he should be doing...

speak *LALEO* to teach!

To you as to spiritual men

Here is the problem, the real problem in America today.

No teaching of Biblical Truth from the pulpits.

The problem in this country is...

not immorality,

not the rise in abomination of homosexuality,

not in not supporting Israel,

not breakdown in Home, family,

not prosperity;

The problem is in the pulpit!

**All these just mentioned are a result of failure of the pulpit!
Failure of the Pastor-Teacher studying and teaching the Truth
and, therefore, failure of believers growing in the Word of
God.**

LALEO means to give forth a sound;

it introduces the Principle that the Pastor-Teacher **is a voice**.

What is important is not the man but the message.

What should be important is not his looks or charisma but his
message...—...**Is he Teaching the Word of God in truth?**

This is how a believer becomes a mature believer;

by consistently listening to one who is declaring the truth of the
Word of God.

It means **to reveal** or **the revealing of truth of God**—

¹ **I, fellow believers could not speak to you** (target of teaching
Truth, doctrine; dative of advantage, (for your advantage)
speak to you for your advantage.

It is amazing how much time people spend at work, making money, how much time in pursuing health, or pleasure, relaxation, or have their children spend in sports, etc.

While **neglecting** the great advantage in life... **GROWING IN THE WORD OF GOD BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD BEING TAUGHT.**

Romans 10:17

17 **Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message that is heard is the word of Christ.**

The mind of Christ—Holy Spirit, takes the Word of Christ—the Bible and causes the listening believer to grow!... To mature!

3:1

1 **I could not speak to you, for your advantage, as to spiritual men *PNEUMATIKOS* — spiritual**

This is much more than just being Filled with the Holy Spirit, for the baby believer can be Filled with the Holy Spirit. This refers to on his way to maturity in Spiritual Life; It is ashamed that we care more about physical maturity than we do spiritual maturity.

but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ.

Here is the 2nd half of the problem in America!

1st Half... **Few men in pulpit studying and teaching Word of God in Truth.**

2nd Half... **Very few believers desire, demand the teaching of Truth.**

The 1st objective is to clearly present the gospel of Salvation 1.
But what happens after Salvation?

But as to men of flesh,

SARKINOS compared with the ***PNEUMATIKOS***.

1. ***IKOS*** shows spiritual relationship, while ***INOS*** shows material relationship, that is with the **kosmos**. Rooted in material, finding answers in material world.

2. One has mind-set on things that are spiritual while the other has mind-set on things that are flesh. Romans 8:5-7

as to babes in Christ

They are believers!

1. The Greek word refers to a new born baby; completely immature, weak, and does not yet know how to even walk.
2. The problem here in 1 Corinthians 3 is that this describes a believer who should be more mature. Nothing wrong with a baby in diapers but not when that baby is 20 years old...Then it's a problem.
3. Babes—weak, and need to be nurtured, step-by-step; protected from False Doctrine; incorrect teaching of the Word of God;

The Grace of God is seen in the phrase: **in Christ**.

There are those who seek to take away someone's Salvation if they remain a baby their whole life--and sin and never grow, but not God...

Once You Are in Christ, You Are in Christ Forever!

Everyone who has believed in JESUS CHRIST is in Christ...

be he a new believer baby believer,

a believer living in sin,

a believer not growing, or

referring to one who is mature in Word of God

... **ALL ARE IN CHRIST**.

In verse 1 Paul writes of speaking—**teaching**.

Now in verse 2 he writes concerning *what* he teaches.

² **I gave you milk to drink, not solid food;**

It is the wise and Spirit-filled Pastor-Teacher who knows his flock!

Milk vs. **Solid Food** and it is the Wise Teacher who knows just who he is teaching and in most cases able to teach both **milk** and **solid food** in the same message.

What is detestable is when a teacher-preacher gives both

GRACE AND LAW in same message;

GRACE AND WORKS in the same talk!

That is confusing to both baby believer and mature believer(s), but especially the baby believer(s) who is just now trying to learn the difference!

Physical food has been used as an analogy to **Bible Doctrine** throughout the Word of God.

In the garden of Eden in Genesis 1-3 it was food that was the issue, not money, not sex, but food... be so careful what you eat, especially in the spiritual realm.

Milk is what we give to a baby!

For the baby cannot take in and chew solid food nor process solid food through their bodies.

Just as a baby believer cannot handle Solid Doctrine.

And, generally, a Pastor-Teacher should always serve some milk for everyone in the assembly, but should quickly take them to where they can handle solid food—advanced teaching.

Milk refers to what is fundamental and yet lays the foundation upon which more doctrine is to be built.

The milk generally concerns with fundamental teachings like 1 Corinthians 2:2 upon which can be built Spirituality by Faith.

Christ Crucified basis of Faith Alone and only in JESUS CHRIST; While no works is added to the Gospel. Make sure they get this down accurately – so that if one tries to add to it... they can in their own minds, say, “no, it is by **Faith Alone in Christ Alone** for Christ has been crucified and resurrected.

But this also makes them ready for **solid food** of 1 Corinthians 15 and Romans 5, etc.

Solid food

Teaching that is built upon the solid foundation –

FOOD FOR LIFE

- 1 Food causes physical growth—biblical-teaching causes spiritual growth.
- 2 Food sustains in life; doctrine sustains believer in the Spiritual Warfare.
- 3 Food energizes –Doctrine gives Energy to the Soul.
- 4 Food causes beauty: skin-color-tone. Doctrine gives inner beauty.
- 5 Food strengthens the body—Doctrine strengthens the soul.
- 6 Food repairs the body—Doctrine repairs the damage of sin;

7 Lack of Food

We all know what that will do; weak, susceptible to danger and lack of doctrine in the soul of a believer causes him to become weak, deny JESUS CHRIST, desert JESUS CHRIST in times of environmental dangers, and susceptible to false teaching.

- 8 Food is a pleasure in life; Learning and Growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and in the Word of God is one of the great pleasures in life and gives capacity for life to the mature believer.
- 9 Food is of no value until you eat it; you can have lots of food available to you but it is of no benefit to you unless you eat it; and the same PRINCIPLE is true of the Word of God; you can have it near you, and you do, here, 3 studies a week, but you do not partake of it... it is of no value to you!
- 10 Food that other people eat does your body no good, and doctrine that others learn does you no spiritual good in your life, except maybe to encourage you to start growing in the Word of God.
- 11 Food was the first physical blessing that God gave man and woman in the garden; the Word of God is one of the great blessings that God gives to us... eat each day... take in the Word of God each day!

It Is A Blessing From God!

Eat All You Want, Eat Everyday

2 **But I did not give you solid food, for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, For you were not able**

All through this section of 1 Corinthians this word has appeared... with the negative.

3:1

1 **not able to speak**

3:2

2 **you not able to receive advanced Doctrine.**

Here in 1 Corinthians 3:2 **for you were not able to receive it**

What is a warning to all of us is the passive voice—
you received not being able to receive it

Question:

How does a believer receive not being able to receive solid food (advance teaching of the Word of God)?

Answer:

...by neglecting to grow in the Word.

The longer you neglect the Word of God,
you receive the inability to learn advance doctrine.

And now the added horrible condition:

Even now you are not yet able (to receive solid food... Doctrine.)

This is a horrible condition for a believer.

No growth...

And it is not Paul's fault. It is their fault, for they have not attended class when Paul taught biblical doctrine.

Even now this is a rebuke by Paul...

when he says **even now** he is implying that they should be able by now...

To see the difference, let us look at another passage we have studied in the Gospel of John 16:12

12 **"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.**

**But When You Receive
THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
You Will Be Able To Grasp Them.**

But here in 1 Corinthians 3:2, Paul is chastising them, pointing out that by **now** they should be able to take of solid food, hear advance teaching, but they cannot not!

Why were the disciples not able to grasp more teaching by JESUS CHRIST?

Because they "do not have" the Holy Spirit as of yet... but will soon.

Why were the Corinthians not able to receive solid food?

Because they "have **CHOSEN NOT**" to grow in doctrine in the Filling of the Holy Spirit. They have the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit, they just choose not to walk in the Holy Spirit!

The disciples will be able to grasp more and more by the coming of the Holy Spirit.

So, every believer can learn more and more, grow, become mature by living in Holy Spirit, following the Holy Spirit, being **Filled with the Holy Spirit.**

1 Corinthians 3:2 **Not able**—

I am not able to teach advance doctrine when you are no able to receive solid teaching of the Word of God.

2 **I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,**

Question: In simple terms:

Why are believers not able to take in solid food or advanced teaching of the Word of God?

- 1 You have Eternal Life—imputed Righteousness and Justification and Sanctification.
- 2 You have the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit—the Mind of Christ, for growing.
- 3 You have the Local Church (1 Corinthians 1) with teachers of Word.
- 4 But you have not taken advantage of any of these:
 - You have not attended regularly in the teaching of the Word of God.
 - You have not walked by Faith in the Holy Spirit.
- 5 So, you do not know advanced doctrines like all that God has prepared for you... all the things He freely gives; You do not know about prophesy, about living the Spirit Filled Life; or about the Spiritual Life!

1 **IT IS NOT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE
INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**Everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST, at
moment of Faith in JESUS CHRIST receives THE
INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, among
33 other wonderful things God has for those who
believe in JESUS CHRIST.**

- 2 You don't know how to walk in the Holy Spirit or you refuse to walk in the Holy Spirit or you refuse to listen to the guiding of the Holy Spirit.
- 3 They have not spent enough time growing in His Word; starting with elementary teachings and grow with Doctrine.

People that go to college, do not just go into college, most have had 12 years of teaching ...

- 4 Multitude of pastors of the local church are not able themselves to give solid food.
They themselves are babes in Christ.
They have not grown themselves.
And, therefore, cannot teach their assemblies the Solid Truth of Scripture.

Hebrews 5:11

11 **Concerning him JESUS CHRIST we have much to say,**

His deity,
His humanity,
His hypostatic Union,

His miraculous birth,
His perfect life,
His miracles and teaching,
His Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension and Session;
2nd Advent,
Millennial rule and
Eternity Future in New Jerusalem...
His love!

So that you can love as He loved.

To say, communicate, teach, exhort **and it is hard to explain**,
difficult to teach, **since you have become dull of hearing**.

Apathetic, bored, I have heard that stuff, I know all there is to know about the Bible, and looking for more excitement, emotionalism, entertainment, etc.

Hebrews 5:12-14

12 **For though by this time you ought to be teachers,**
Communicating advanced teaching yourselves, but
you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 **For everyone who partakes only of milk** Very basic teaching, and this describes a great number of believers Sunday after Sunday, month after month all they get is milk.
is not accustomed to the word of righteousness,
advance teaching on the importance of Perfect Righteousness.
for he is a babe. Immature

14

But solid food Advanced doctrine **is for the mature,**
who because of practice Living in the Spirit Filled Life,
growing in listening to teaching of the Word of God
have their senses spiritual senses
trained to discern good and evil.
Honorable and dishonorable.