**CHAPTER 4**

*God’s ministers are not to be judged. He reprehends their boasting of their preachers; and describes the treatments the apostles every where met with.*

**1** Let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ, and the dispensers of the mysteries of God.

**2** Here now it is required among the dispensers, that a man be found faithful.

**3** But to me it is a very small thing to be judged by you, or by man’s day; but neither do I judge my own self.

**4** For I am not conscious to myself of any thing, yet am I not hereby justified; but he that judgeth me, is the Lord.

**5** Therefore judge not before the time; until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then shall every man have praise from God.

**6** But these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollo, for your sakes; that in us you may learn, that one be not puffed up against the other for another, above that which is written.

**7** For who distinguisheth thee? Or what hast thou that thou hast not received? And if thou hast received, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

**8** You are now full; you are now become rich; you reign without us; and I would to God you did reign, that we also might reign with you.

**9** For I think that God hath set forth us apostles, the last, as it were men appointed to death: we are made a spectacle to the world, and to angels, and to men.

**10** We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are honourable, but we without honour.

**11** Even unto this hour we both hunger and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no fixed abode;

**12** And we labour, working with our own hands: we are reviled, and we bless; we are persecuted, and we suffer it.

**13** We are blasphemed, and we entreat; we are made as the refuse of this world, the offscouring of all even until now.

**14** I write not these things to confound you; but I admonish you as my dearest children.

**15** For if you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet not many fathers. For in Christ Jesus, by the gospel, I have begotten you.

**16** Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me, as I also am of Christ.

**17** For this cause have I sent to you Timothy, who is my dearest son and faithful in the Lord; who will put you in mind of my ways, which are in Christ Jesus; as I teach every where in every church.

**18** As if I would not come to you, so some are puffed up.

**19** But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will: and will know, not the speech of them that are puffed up, but the power.

**20** For the kingdom of God is not in speech, but in power.

**21** What will you? shall I come to you with a rod; or in charity, and in the spirit of meekness?