

WISE WORDS

from a friend



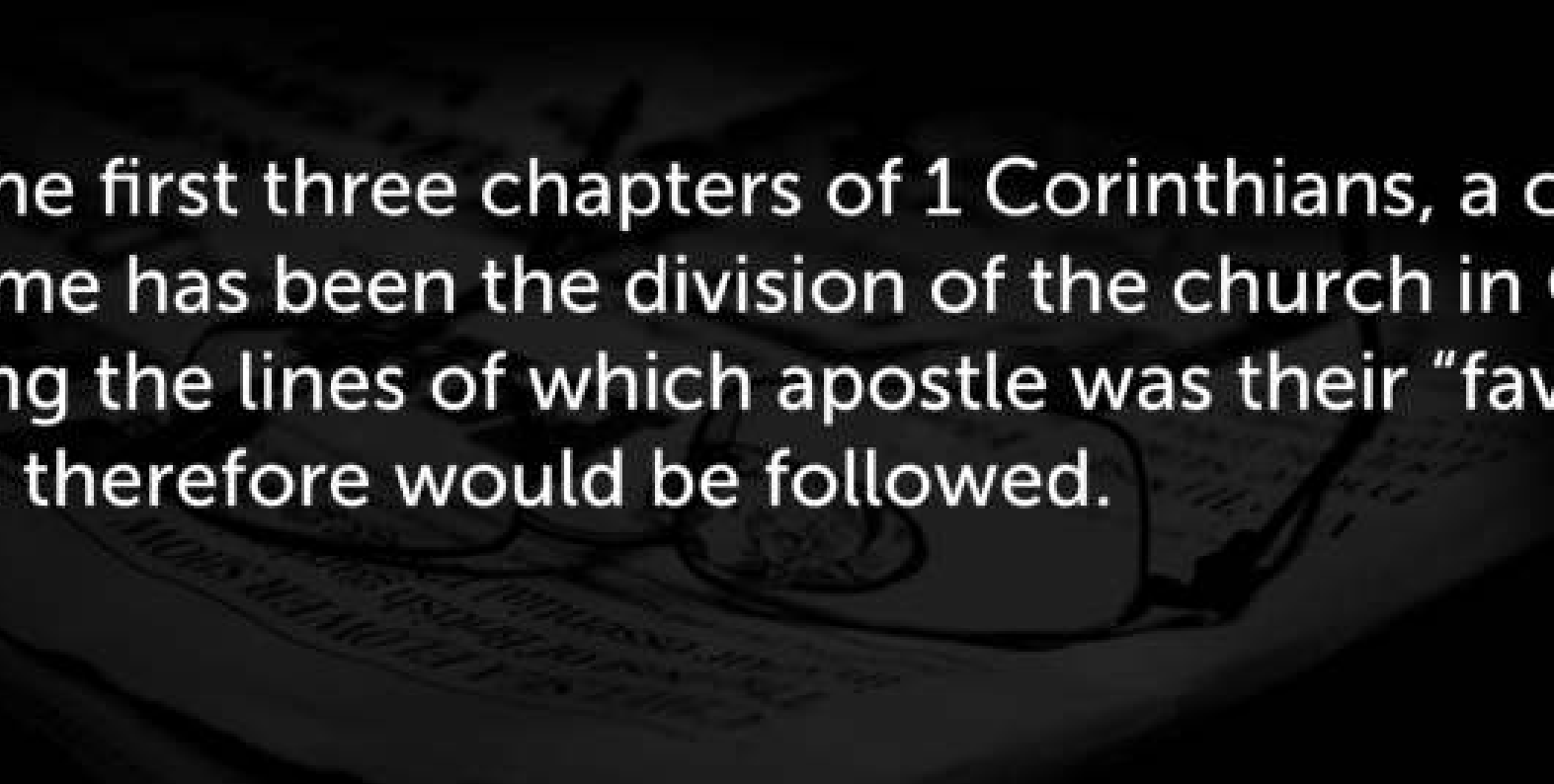
WISE WORDS *from a friend*

Friend
to
Friend

This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. ² Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. ³ I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.

⁴ My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

In the first three chapters of 1 Corinthians, a common theme has been the division of the church in Corinth along the lines of which apostle was their “favorite” and therefore would be followed.

A pair of glasses is resting on an open book, which is the background for the text. The book's pages are visible, showing some text and a circular stamp or seal.

"servants of Christ, those entrusted with the mysteries
God has revealed"

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and thin temples is resting on an open book. The book's pages are visible, showing some text and a small illustration. The background is dark, and the overall lighting is soft, creating a contemplative atmosphere.

“servants of Christ, those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed”

So, Paul—along with his fellow apostles—are both humble servants of Christ, and trusted “managers” of something extremely important.

What is the "measure" we are to use when considering our roles as "managers" of what God has given?

Faithfulness.



"I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court..."

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and thin temples is resting on a newspaper. The newspaper is spread out, showing various columns of text and some headlines. The background is dark, making the glasses and the newspaper stand out.



Apostle Paul

...

Public Figure · Missionary · Author

Preaching the gospel. Making disciples.
Writing letters.



Church in Corinth

2,000 years ago

Local Community



Really unimpressed with his speaking ability.



Helpful (3)



Comment



Share

Paul is absolutely not completely prohibiting Christians from being discerning and making decisions based on evidence.

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If someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. (Galatians 6:1)

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a newspaper. The newspaper is spread out, showing various columns of text and some headlines. The background is dark, making the glasses and the newspaper stand out.

"I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear,
but that does not make me innocent."

"In addition to the 'human court,' Paul includes any personal judgments he might make of himself as equally inconsequential. His personal evaluations of his own performance are irrelevant; what his master thinks is what counts."

(Joel B. Green)

"Can anything be more excellent than this practice of thoroughly sifting the whole day? And how delightful the sleep that follows this self-examination—how tranquil it is, how deep and untroubled, when the soul has either praised or admonished itself... I avail myself of this privilege, and every day I plead my cause before the bar of self."

(Seneca)

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

(Psalm 139:23-24)

"It is the Lord who judges me."

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a newspaper. The newspaper is spread out, showing various columns of text and some headlines. The background is dark, making the newspaper and glasses stand out.

"It is the Lord who judges me."

"Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time;
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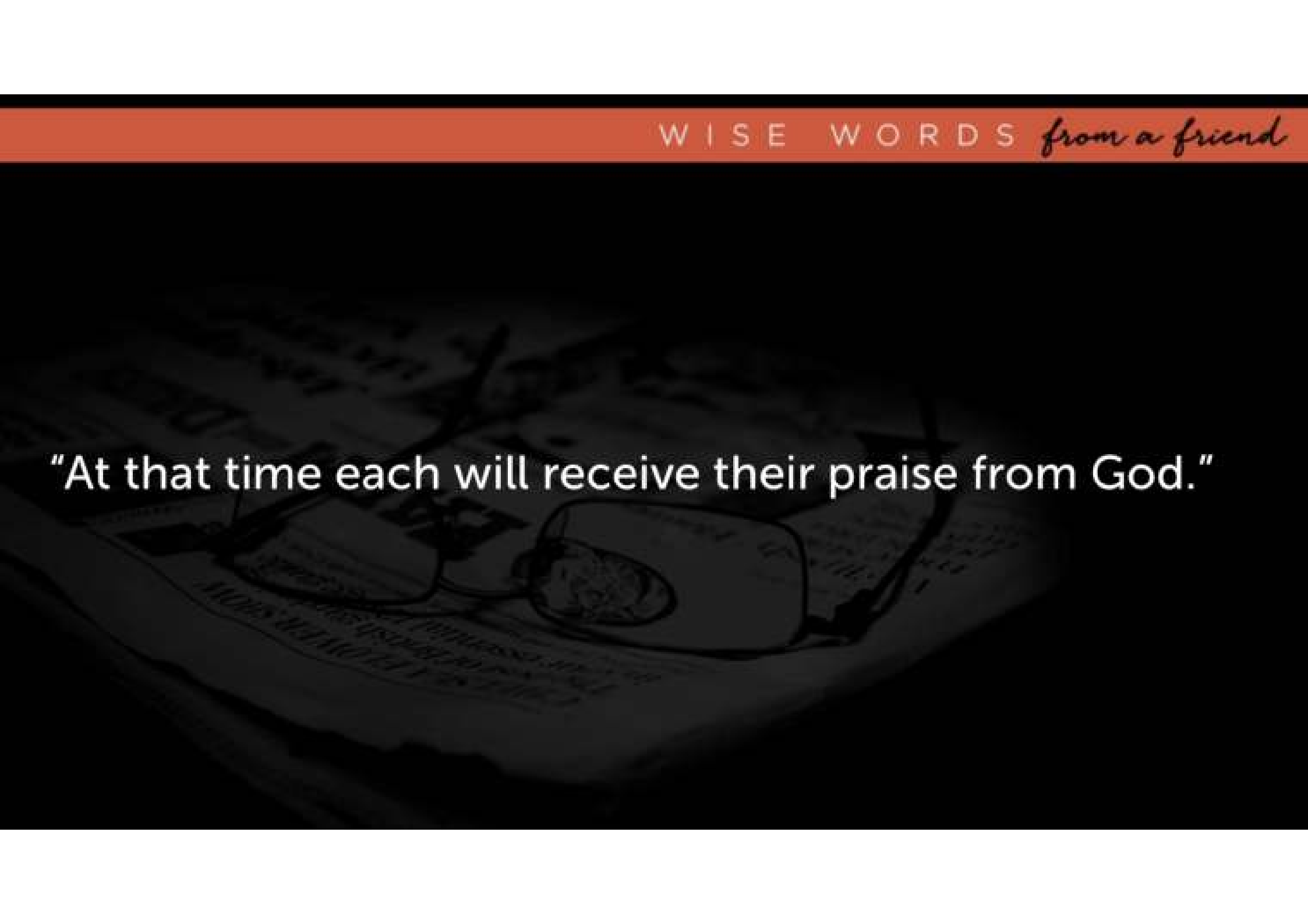
We need to avoid turning partial information into
permanent conclusions.

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on an open book. The book's pages are visible, showing some text and a small illustration. The background is dark and out of focus.

Only Christ, the rightful judge, has the authority—and ability—to “bring to light what is hidden in darkness.”

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He will “expose the motives of the heart.”

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and light-colored lenses is resting on a newspaper. The newspaper is spread out, showing various headlines and text. The background is dark, making the glasses and the newspaper stand out. The text "At that time each will receive their praise from God." is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

"At that time each will receive their praise from God."

A pair of glasses with a dark frame and thin temples is resting on an open book. The book's pages are visible, showing some text and a small illustration. The background is dark, and the overall lighting is soft, creating a contemplative atmosphere.

What have you been "entrusted with" by God? Are you managing your "trust" faithfully?

A pair of glasses with dark frames and thin temples is resting on an open book. The book's pages are visible, showing some text and a small illustration. The background is dark and slightly blurred, focusing attention on the glasses and the book.

Do you place too much emphasis on the “court of opinion” of other people? Does the approval of others matter too much to you?

A pair of glasses with dark frames and thin temples is resting on an open book. The book's pages are visible, showing some text and a small illustration. The background is dark and slightly blurred, focusing attention on the glasses and the book.

Invite the Spirit to help you trust your conscience appropriately, but humbly enough that it isn't the ultimate evaluator.

A pair of glasses with round lenses and a dark frame is resting on an open book. The book's pages are visible, showing some text and a small illustration. The background is dark, and the overall lighting is soft, creating a contemplative atmosphere.

What are some of your acts of faithfulness, sacrifice, or obedience that no one (or almost no one) knows anything about? Can you trust the same might be true for other people?

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