**Chapter 4 summarizes the teachings that formed Paul’s response to the first issue in the Corinthian church that he confronts – the existence of divisions, based on their favorite teachers. Using himself and Apollos, Paul applies agricultural and architectural examples to show how their work serves the same purpose – the growth of God’s church. Since Paul and Apollos are workers together with God, there should be unity, not division, in the church. The Corinthian believers’ divisive attitudes are a symptom of their spiritual immaturity. In this chapter Paul “opens his heart” to the Corinthians, sharing his insights on the calling of an apostle and the suffering it brings. He concludes his instruction concerning their problem of division with a stern warning to those who persist in questioning his apostolic authority.**

1. **Read verses 1-5. Who is Paul referring to when he says “us” in verse 1?**
2. **How should the Corinthian church think of “us”? Answer: “as of , and as of the of .” (v. 1)**
3. **What is the most important requirement of a steward? (v. 2)**
4. **Those Corinthians who had rejected Paul in favor of Apollos and Cephas (Peter) judged him to be inferior to them. Was Paul upset or worried about this? (v. 3)**
5. **Did Paul even judge himself? If not, Who did he acknowledge as his Judge? (v. 4)**
6. **Paul told the Corinthians to judge before the , until the comes. (v. 5)**
7. **What TWO things will the Lord do (that we CANNOT do) when He judges? (v. 5)**
8. **Read verses 6-7. In the previous chapter, which two men did Paul use to illustrate the truths he was teaching the Corinthians? Answer: and . (v. 6)**
9. **What TWO THINGS did Paul hope that the Corinthians would learn from his teaching? (v. 6)**
10. **What does it mean to be “puffed up? (v. 6) Is this a problem? Find two scriptures that support your answer.**
11. **Paul asks the Corinthians three RHETORICAL questions that are tied to the previous verse. How would you summarize these questions? (v. 7)**
12. **Read verses 8-14 Paul used three “Ye (you) are” statements to describe the Corinthian church. What were they? (v. 8; refer back to Chapter 1 verses 4-8)**
13. **In contrast, what did Paul say about the situation of the apostles? (v. 9) Answer: he thought that they were “ to “, and were “made a spectacle unto the , and to , and to .”**
14. **In verses 11-13, Paul summarizes the plight of the apostles in his day. Recall the words of Jesus when He spoke about true greatness (Matthew 23:11-12; Luke 22:24-27; John 13:12-17); see also Hebrews 11:32-38. In light of these truths, what would you say about the “heavenly status” of true apostles?**
15. **Read verses 14-16. What WASN’T Paul’s reason to “bare his soul” to the Corinthian believers? What WAS? How did he refer to them? (v. 14)**
16. **What was the difference between Paul and all others (including Apollos) who preached and taught at the church in Corinth? (v. 15) Answer: “In Christ Jesus”, Paul had the Corinthian believers through the Gospel.**
17. **Verse 16 summarizes all of Paul’s response to the issue of divisions in the Corinthian church. What was his sincere, heartfelt request? (See also I Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; I Thessalonians 1:1-7)**
18. **Read verse 17. Who did Paul send to Corinth? What were his qualifications? What was his mission? Note – this was Paul’s Plan “A”.**
19. **Read verses 18-21. What potential source of resistance did Paul see to Plan “A”? What were they thinking? (v.18)**
20. **What was Paul’s Plan “B”? Who would ultimately decide when/if Plan “B” would be carried out? Why might this be called the “nuclear option” in today’s culture? (v. 19-20; See Acts 13:5-12; Acts 16:16-18)**
21. **Read verse 21. What choice did Paul offer the “puffed up” Corinthians? When WE become “puffed up” as they did, what choices does the Lord offer the church today? See Galatians 6:1; Revelation 2:18-23**