"The Measure of a Ministry, Part 2"

Sunday, April 7, 2024, 10:30 a.m. Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI Pastor Jonathan DeCou *1 Corinthians 3:5-9a*

BIG IDEA: The Church is a FIELD; the goal is PRODUCTIVITY.

"For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field." 1 Corinthians 3:9a (CSB)

- Productivity is <u>achieved</u> through <u>diversity</u>. (v5, 6)
 - There are <u>diverse</u> individuals in the field.
 - \circ There are diverse tasks in the field.
- Productivity is <u>achieved</u> through <u>unity</u>. (v8)
 - <u>Unity</u> of <u>purpose</u>.
 - <u>Unity</u> with <u>distinction</u>.
- Productivity is <u>achieved</u> through <u>humility</u>. (v5-7, 9a)
 - <u>Humility</u> results in <u>productivity</u>.
 - <u>Humility</u> remembers one's <u>accountability</u>.

BIG IDEA: The Church is a FIELD; the goal is PRODUCTIVITY.

THINK: Consider the Church as a Field, then ask yourself these questions: *Do you* have a "green thumb"? What is your most notable gardening success story? Do you prefer to work with people just like you or with those who differ from you? Why does God make allowance for diversity in His "field"? How does this diversity strengthen the work of the Church? What is the one purpose all believers should be concerned with? What is the difference between UNITY and UNIFORMITY? What is the relationship between DIVERSITY and UNITY in the Church? Are you satisfied with God's "pay scale" and "benefit package"? How does humility encourage productivity within God's "Field", the Church? How does a lack of humility impede productivity? When all is said and done, who gets the credit for a "bumper crop" at harvest time in God's Field?

DO: Identify your role within God's "Field", the Church. Are you a "planter" or a "waterer" or what? What reward do you desire and expect at the Judgment Seat of Christ? How does your degree of humility tell others who your "boss" is in God's Field?

READ: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9a