Inviting Ridicule

"How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that *cometh* from God only?" John 5:44

When men receive honor from others, not seeking the honor that comes alone from God, they expose themselves to ridicule; you find illustrations among politicians and ministers seeking fame. This is inevitable because of our depravity. As the Apostle Paul noted, "For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself."[1]

When we accept the notion that we are something – when in reality we are nothing – we invite the scrutiny of others who seek to ascertain the legitimacy of such claims. None can withstand such withering analysis.

By way of contrast, obedient servants of Christ refuse the honor given them, freely acknowledge that they are "nothing," and receive the opprobrium of men because they proclaim Christ. For this reason, the question we must ask is: do we want the scorn of man because of what we have done, or because of what Christ has done?