Carnal Christians

In 1 Corinthians 3 he writes to believers (“Brothers”) who are in Christ (“babes in Christ”) and tells them that they are carnal. The result of this carnality is that they will lose out on rewards and they will not gain additional knowledge about spiritual things, but their everlasting life is not in jeopardy.

The theological systems mentioned above believe that a Christian actually becomes a better person as time goes on. Apart from the Holy Spirit, however, there is no ability in a believer to do that which is pleasing to the Lord. If I am honest about myself, I am in the same boat with the Apostle Paul: “O wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death?” and “in my flesh dwells no good thing.” Why does this surprise us? Didn’t Jesus Himself say, “apart from Me, you can do nothing”?

Our gracious God gives everlasting life as a gift to all who believe in Jesus. This gift is not kept by good works; it is not lost by evil works. It is a gift, pure and simple. It is God’s rich, unmerited grace that should lead us to serve Him from a heart of love. Need to hear more on this topic? Here is a link to an audio sermon of 1 Corinthians 3:1-9: <http://www.bethanybible.com/menu_1cor.html>. Click on *Why We Need Carnal Christians*.

My love to you all,

*Dr. Marvin J. Effa*