

The World Is Yours

No. 88

Introduction.

I. Once the apostle Paul wrote these words to the church at Corinth that was shamefully divided and boasting over men.

1CO 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. **12** Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." **13** Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

3 **1**And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, as unto babes in Christ. **2**I fed you with milk, not with meat; for ye were not yet able *to bear it*: nay, not even now are ye able; **3**for ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you jealousy and strife, are ye not carnal, and do ye not walk after the manner of men? **4**For when one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not men? **5**What then is Apollos? and what is Paul? Ministers through whom ye believed; and each as the Lord gave to him. **6**I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. **7**So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. **8**Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: but each shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. **9**For we are God's fellow-workers: ye are God's husbandry, God's building.

1CO 3:21 So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, **22** whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, **23** and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

II. In these verses Paul rebukes the Christian at Corinth for being divided over mere men.

A. He also insists that their actions were very foolish. It was foolish to boast in mere men when all things, including the world, belonged to them.

B. **The argument is**, “Why glory in part when all things are yours.”

III. I would like to particularly emphasize the affirmation of Paul that the world belongs to us.

A. This statement sounds very strange to Christians, especially in view of the many warnings about the wicked world. (Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:1, 2; Jas. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15).

1. These scriptures make it plain that Christians are not to love or conform to the evils of this wicked world.

2. We are to live separate, holy lives and set our minds and affections on things above.

B. This does not mean that a Christian is to have nothing to do with the world.

1. It does not mean there is nothing in the world for the Christian enjoy.

2. There are some special senses in which the world belongs to Christians.

I. **Subdue And Reign Over** - The world is ours to subdue and reign over.

A. Genesis 1 tells us of the creation of the world and man. On the sixth day, God said,

²⁶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And God blessed them: and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. ASV

B. Later David said. (Psa. 8:5-9).

C. Both **Moses and David** inform us that God has made man master over His creation. Through the power of God man has made the beasts subservient, harnessed many powers of nature and unveiled many of the mysteries of the heavens and the deep. All of this did not happen by mere chance, but by the will of the God of the universe.

II. **Recognize And Enjoy As God’s Handiwork** - The world is ours to recognize and enjoy as God’s handiwork.

A. The beautiful 19th psalm says. (Psa. 19:1).

1. Yes, the heavens testify to the existence and greatness of our heavenly Father.
2. The **infidel Hume**, looking into the night heavens, declared to Ferguson, a fellow skeptic: “Adam, surely there must be a God!” Even infidels have their moments of weakness in which they are led to confess the existence and magnitude of our Maker.

B. God has created the earth and its magnificent physical beauties, not only as evidence for His existence, but also for our enjoyment. The person who never takes the time to enjoy some of these marvelous beauties has missed some of God’s greatest blessings.

III. **Light** - The world is our to light. (Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15).

A. The world is full of darkness.

1. It needs light.
2. Christians are to light the world with righteous lives that men may be led to the holy God of heaven and to Jesus the Savior.

B. Someone has said, “**Men will fight for religion, wrangle over it, write for it, die for it; anything but live for it.**”

1. The world about us is crying for less advice and more examples of Christian living.
2. We need to light the world and show it the way to God.

IV. **Serve** - The world is our to serve.

A. Once a **certain lawyer** came to Jesus and made trial of him saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Lk. 10:25-37). **Relate**

B. We are taught in this parable that whoever stands in need is our neighbor and we are to show kindness to our neighbor.

1. Like the Samaritan we are to show kindness to all, both friend and foe.
2. True religion teaches us to do good to every man as we opportunity.
3. True religion leads us to consider the needs of others above our own needs. (Phil. 2:4).

V. **To Claim For Christ** - The world is ours to claim for Christ. (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:19, 20).

A. Jesus gave us the commandment and the challenge to evangelize the whole world. We are to teach every person the soul-saving message of Christ. We must never rest, we must never stop preaching and teaching until every person has had the privilege of hearing the words of eternal life.

B. I once read about a **fellow in a burning out who stop to carry out a sack of beans.** The sack burst, and with the roof about to cave in , he began to pick up the beans one by one. There are barely time for his own escape yet he jeopardized his life for some beans.

1. The foolish attitude of this man often characterizes our concern for the lost. We are sometimes more interested in picking up beans than in getting ourselves and others out of the burning house.
2. It is not our duty to worry with minor, trivial things, but to focuse of the weightier matters of the law. It is our duty to throw out the life line for the rescue of immortal souls.

Conclusion.

- I. In closing I would like to emphasize that heaven is ours too. Heaven and all its beauties and comforts belong to those who live for Christ. Jesus says to each Christian. (Rev. 2:10).
- II. Once a **young father died of a heart disorder** leaving a wife and pre-school daughter. Soon after the child learned of her father's death, she was overheard to say, "My daddy is the first one in my family to get to go to heaven." This child believed in heaven, believed her father was there, and believed heaven was her home.
 - A. **As Christians we often Christians forget that heaven is ours.** With all of the emphasis on the church's response to social life and social ills there seems to be less and less concern with heavenly matters. We certainly ought to live with the full assurance that one day heaven will be our home.
 - B. **Once I read about a lady who was diagnosed with a terminal illness.** Story of the woman who wanted to be buried with her fork.