

The World Is Yours

Introduction.

1. Once the apostle Paul wrote these words to the church at Corinth that was shamefully divided and boasting over men they were choosing to follow. (1 Cor. 1:10-13).

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

1 Cor 1:11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's {people,} that there are quarrels among you.

1 Cor 1:12 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."

1 Cor 1:13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? All three questions should be answered with emphatic "no."

2. He also penned these words to the believers in Corinth. (1 Cor. 3:1-9; 3:21-23).

1 Cor 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

1 Cor 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able {to receive it.} Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

1 Cor 3:3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

1 Cor 3:4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not {mere} men?

1 Cor 3:5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave {opportunity} to each one.

1 Cor 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

1 Cor 3:7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

1 Cor 3:8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

1 Cor 3:21 **So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you,**

1 Cor 3:22 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,

1 Cor 3:23 and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

2. In these verses Paul rebukes the Christians at Corinth for being divided over mere men.

a. He also insists their actions were very foolish and sinful.

b. It was foolish and sinful to boast in mere men when "all things, including the world, belonged to them."

c. **The argument is,** "Why glory in part when all things are yours."

d. "Don't cut yourself short!"

e. **God has much more than we can imagine for us in this world and more than we can comprehend in the world to come.**

3. This lesson will particularly emphasize the affirmation of Paul that the world belongs to us as Christians,

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).

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Col 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

James 4:4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

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

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

d. **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 to enjoy.

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

Subdue And Reign Over

1. The world is ours to subdue and reign over.

2. Genesis 1 tells us of the creation of the world and man. (Gen. 1:1).

Gen 1:1 In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth.

3. On the sixth day of creation, God said (Gen. 1:26-28).

Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Gen 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Gen 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it;

and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- a. **God did not create man like the lower creation**, but He gave man authority over it.
- b. He created man in His own "image" and "likeness."
- c. God has absolute authority and has given man [not the lower creation] authority over creation.

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

Ps 8:5 **Yet You have made him a little lower than God**, And You crown him with glory and majesty!

Ps 8:6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

Ps 8:7 All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field,

Ps 8:8 The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

Ps 8:9 O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!

- The word "God" is the Hebrew word "elohim," and it can be translated either "God" or "angels."
- The Hebrew writer reveals the correct translation of "elohim," in psalm 8. is "angels." (Heb. 2:7).

Heb. 2:7 "Thou hast made Him for **a little while lower than the angels.**"

- Man is not "a little lower than God," but he is "a little lower than the angels" whom God created before material creation. (Psa. 148:2,5),
- They are "ministering spirits" created by God - not "a little lower than God." (Heb. 1:14).
- None of us even comes close to being like the Holy and Omnipotent God of heaven.!

4. Both **Moses and David** inform us that God has made man master over His creation.

- a. 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.
- b. All of this did not happen by mere chance, but by the will of the God of the universe.

Recognize And Enjoy As God's Handiwork

1. The world is ours to recognize and enjoy as God's handiwork.

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

Ps 19:1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

- a. Yes, the heavens testify to the existence and greatness of our awesome heavenly Father.
 - 1) Everywhere we look, either in the heavens or on earth, we are overwhelmed with the power of God.
 - 2) **One must be totally blind not to see the infinite Intelligence and Power of the Creator!**

3) These things [material creation] could not have happened by blind chance!

4) The psalmist called the one who denies God a “fool.” (Psa. 14:1).

b. He is the One who through His Son created the universe and everything in it. (Jn. 1:1-3).

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

c. 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.

d. God has created the earth and its magnificent physical beauties, not only as evidence for His existence, but also for our enjoyment.

e. The person who never takes the time to enjoy some of these marvelous beauties has missed some of God’s greatest blessings.

Light

1. The world is ours to light. (Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15).

Matt 5:14 **“You are the light of the world.** A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

Matt 5:15 nor does {anyone} light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Matt 5:16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Phil 2:15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

a. The world is full of darkness and every kind of abomination.

b. **It desperately needs light!** It needs the light that comes from God!

c. 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.

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

a. The world about us is crying for less advice and more examples of Christian living.

b. We need to light the world and show it the way to God.

c. The world can see the vastness, the precision, the beauty of God’s creation, but it will never know God

and His will for man unless the children of God both teach God's word and live it in their lives.

Serve

1. The world is ours to serve. (Matt. 20:25-28).

Matt 20:25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and {their} great men exercise authority over them.

Matt 20:26 "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,

Matt 20:27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

Matt 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

2. 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).

- a. We are taught in this parable that whoever stands in need is our neighbor and we are to show kindness to our neighbor.
- b. Like the Samaritan we are to show kindness to all, both friend and foe.
- c. True religion teaches us to do good to every man as we have opportunity.
- d. True religion leads us to consider the needs of others above our own needs. (Phil. 2:4).

Phil 2:4 do not {merely} look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

1) We must look to our own interest and work to support ourselves. (Eph. 4:28).

Eph 4:28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have {something} to share with one who has need.

2) We are also to seek to help and serve others. (Gal. 6:10).

Gal 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

To Claim For Christ

1. The world is ours to claim for Christ. (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:19, 20).

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Matt 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Matt 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

2. Jesus gave us the commandment and the challenge to evangelize the whole world.

- a. We are to teach every person the soul-saving message of Christ.
 - b. 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.
3. I once read about a **fellow in a burning house 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 was barely time for his own escape yet he jeopardized his life for some beans.
- a. The foolish attitude of this man often characterizes our concern for the lost.
 - b. We are sometimes more interested in picking up beans than in getting ourselves and others out of the burning house.
 - c. It is not our duty to worry with minor, trivial things, but to focus of the weightier matters of the law. (Matt. 23:23).
 - d. It is our duty to throw out the life line for the rescue of immortal souls. (Mk. 16:15).

Conclusion.

1. It should be emphasized that heaven is ours too.
 - a. Heaven and all its beauties and comforts belong to those who live for Christ.
 - b. No sacrifice we must make in this life even compares to eternity with God in heaven!
2. Jesus says to each Christian. (Rev. 2:10).

Rev 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

3. 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.
4. **As Christians we often forget that heaven is ours.**
 - a. 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.
 - b. We certainly ought to live with the full assurance that one day heaven will be our everlasting home.

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