

1 Corinthians 3:21-23 – All is Yours

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – April 14, 2024

God's Sovereignty Over All

Psalm 119:90-91 *Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: Thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. They continue this day according to thine ordinances: For all are thy servants. **Everything belongs to Him, and all things serve His purpose.***

1 Cor 15:24-27 *Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet... **Everything is conquered... even death!***

Rom 8:16-17 *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

If all is His and I am His heir, then... What are the implications?

The Problem

1 Cor 3:1-20 – **Read v1-7**... you are God's vineyard, you are God's building

The church was filled with pride and division, people grouping themselves under popular preachers.

1 Cor 3:21-23 *Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.*

The Corinthians aligned themselves under popular church leaders thinking it would advance or benefit them.

Paul flips the script from "I am of..." to "all are yours". He goes beyond presentation problem & expands teaching.

The Six Tyrannies

Paul addresses six tyrannies (oppressions) that we can exalt and yield to, bullying us into sinful behaviors.

1. Paul, Apollos & Cephas (Peter) -> People – We exalt people because of what we think they can do for us.

Prov 29:25 *The fear of man bringeth a snare: But whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*

Proper respect can be twisted into idolatry where the acceptance of some person or group drives us and divides us.

2. This World – A world full of things that promise everything but can deliver nothing enduring.

"This world has nothing for me and this world has everything. All that I could want and nothing that I need" – C.C.

Rom 12:2 – "... be not conformed to this world..." **Illus:** The rich man who built bigger barns and relaxed and died.

3. Life – Trying to extend it, capture the moments, cram everything in that we think needs to be accomplished.

Matt 6:27 *And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? (ESV) **Illus:** Martha so burdened*

4. Death – One of the great terrors is death and not just death, but all decay and destruction.

Heb 2:15 *and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (ESV) **People pay \$\$\$ for this!***

5. Things Present – Challenges, burdens, circumstances, and difficulties we face in the present.

1 Pet 1:3-6 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you... In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, (ESV) **Sometimes one of the greatest acts of bravery is to continue breathing.***

6. Things to Come

Matt 6:34 *Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

- We can be paralyzed over the future and the unknowns around the corner.
- We can be so focused on the future that we neglect the present.

Any of these six can dominate and deform our desires, producing all kinds of envy, strife, fear, anxiety, anger...

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Served by All

1 Cor 3:21-23 *Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.*

What does it mean that “all things are yours”? **It means that as a believer, all these things are intended to serve you.**

Illus: Kids come home and get in the fridge.

1. Served by People

Joseph: Brothers, Potiphar... **Gen 50:20** *But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.* **No one can take something from you that God wants you to have.**

Served in the Church

Eph 4:11–12 *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

2 Tim 2:10 *Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.* **Paul was under no illusion that his ministry was about his benefit.**

2. Served by the World

Phil 4:11-13 *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Both the things that Paul had and the things he didn't have served to instruct him and grow him in Christ.

3. Served by Life

Psalms 90 - Number your days. **The value of your life is not defined by quantity of days but how you spend them.**

This is the day the Lord has made. It is here for you... for you to make use of. You have the chance to make it last!

4. Served by Death

Think more broadly than just the end... think about all forms of loss, including the ultimate demise.

2 Cor 12 – Paul's thorn in the flesh

By becoming weak, Christ's power rested more strongly upon him.

Phil 1:23 *For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:*

5. Served by Things Present

1 Pet 1:6-7 *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:* **There is purpose in all the pain.**

6. Served by Things to Come

Prov 31:25 *Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future.* (NASB95)

I Don't Know About Tomorrow *“I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand.”*

The God, who is sovereign today, will be sovereign tomorrow.

All Under God

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The service rendered by “All Things” is not to meet every whim and desire twisted by sin.

It is defined by the Great Master and His first and true heir... but all is yours. Everything serves your greatest needs.