

1 Corinthians 3:19 notes

12/16/18

Review: we saw in last study that how you think determines what kind of believer you are

1. You will say, "that is a no-brainer" – but some believers don't think on a spiritual level, at all
2. Most believers see the wisdom of the world as being legitimate wisdom
3. But it is not! **1 Cor.3:19**

3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS";

V.20 and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS."

1. "THAT THEY ARE USELESS."
 - a. Those are quotes from **Job 5 & Psalm 94**
 - b. Have you ever thought about how many books of science exist?
 - c. Do you own a set of encyclopedias – try selling them & see what they are worth –
 - i. Read them & see what is still relevant
 - ii. Books on science are ever changing
 - iii. How often has the Bible needed updating?

Psalm 94:11 The LORD knows the thoughts of man, That they are a *mere* breath.

2. "THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS"
 - a. "reasonings" – means logic, deliberations, thoughts
 - i. What the world considers wise – God says is useless
 - b. The same word translated "useless" is used in **James 1**

James 1:26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is **worthless**.

- c. It is amazing that institutions of higher learning believe that knowledge will lead them to the place where God is no longer needed
- d. One of the most dangerous places your child will ever go is into a college classroom

V.21 So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you,

1. "So then"
 - a. Summary statement
 - b. **Because** the world's wisdom is worthless – don't look at church leaders like the world looks at its leaders

2. "For all things belong to you"

- a. There is something that comes w/ maturity in Christ
 - i. It is the understanding that no one really owns anything – yet the believer owns everything at the same time
- b. A relaxed attitude toward material goods comes from a deep understanding that God really owns everything

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

- c. You may say, "Sure, God owns everything."
- d. But very few believers really believe that
- e. Truly knowing that fact does away w/ envy, jealousy, covetousness, greed, etc.
- f. No one is envious who believes God really owns it all
- g. Envy says – "**you**" own what "**I**" want to own
 - i. That is not believing God owns everything
 - ii. That is believing **either** you own something **or** I own it
 - iii. Greed is saying "**I**" don't own enough yet
- h. When you really see that God owns it all
 - i. You really see that He owns you too
 - ii. He will give you what is best for you – b/c He can & will

Psalm 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

- iii. This understanding helps you relax about what you have

- i. You begin to see "stuff" having more value than just being for your consumption

- j. So many people use money as a barometer to gauge success in life – in truth – seeing money that way, reveals how much of a failure an individual is
- k. Others use it as a security blanket
 - i. Either reason is a sad commentary on the spiritual level of that type of thinking
- l. Material goods either have value in God's kingdom or they have no real value at all
- m. How sad to spend a lifetime seeking to acquire something & finally getting it – only to find out that it didn't bring fulfillment as expected
 - i. It's easy to waste a life seeking what doesn't matter

V.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. "whether Paul...Apollos...Cephas...world...life...death...things present or things to come; all...belong to you"
 - a. While we should see material things properly; we should see events properly too
 - b. Knowing "all things are yours" causes you to see events thru God's eyes
 - i. You see purpose in circumstances you didn't see before
 - c. This clarifies some hard to understand verses

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

2. "all things belong to you"
 - a. You also see yourself differently **when** you know "that all things belong to you" – your physical appearance, your IQ, athleticism, etc. are not accidental

- b. Ultimately this goes back to the question – “How big is your God?”
 - i. Is He big enough that **all** things matter to Him?
- c. Do you believe that God is so big that – everything – every happening, every material object, every person is in His sight & under His direction? (He watches over His own)
 - i. Even things that are against His will are under His control! – to be used as He sees fit – even evil people
 - ii. It is hard to accept but true

Jeremiah 43:10 and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Behold, I am going to send and get Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, **My servant**, and I am going to set his throne *right* over these stones that I have hidden; and he will spread his canopy over them.

V.23 and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

- 1. “you belong to Christ”
 - a. You **cannot** realize **how much** “all things belong to you” until you realize **how much** “you belong to Christ”
 - i. It is all tied to you belonging to Christ & Christ belonging to God
 - ii. It is b/c of Christ that God gives us all things

James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

- d. Why did David (while running from King Saul) not kill Saul when he had the chance?
 - i. Because David saw the bigger picture – he belonged to God

1 Samuel 24:3 ^(Saul hunting David) He ^(King Saul) came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there *was* a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

V.6 So he ^(David) said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

⁷ David persuaded his men with *these* words and did

not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on *his* way.

- ii. David knew that God knew what was best!
- iii. In other words, God owned King Saul – God owned David & David could entrust his life to God

4:1 Let a man regard us in this manner, *as servants of Christ*, and *stewards of the mysteries of God*.

1. "regard us... as servants of Christ"

- a. If the world looks at its leaders/heroes as super stars – and then takes sides w/ "their" leader
 - i. How are we to look at those individuals God has gifted in the Church?
 - ii. We are not to exalt one Bible teacher over another
 - iii. That doesn't mean that we aren't to know good teaching from bad teaching – we are to know!
- b. But we are to see Bible teachers for what they are:
 - i. "stewards" – under rowers
- c. The Corinthians knew what an under-rower was
- d. Corinth was that tiny piece of land between the Ionian Sea & the Aegean Sea
- e. War galleys would cross dry land at Corinth
- f. The Corinthians saw many war ships
 - i. They had seen the lower deck where a row of benches were on either side of the ship. There men sat & rowed the ship
 - ii. There was also an elevated deck where the commanding officer was. He instructed the rowers – they moved by his command
 - iii. Paul says all teachers are rowers **under** Christ command

2. "stewards of the mysteries of God"

- a. But these teachers were not merely under-rowers they were "stewards" of the mysteries of God
- b. Steward – house manager
- c. Being a pastor or teacher is not a trade or profession or a job – it was a calling

- i. Truths of the Word were entrusted to them
- ii. Paul took that very seriously

Colossians 1:25 *Of this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of* the word of God,

- d. The Bible contains deep truths that God wants all of us to know
- e. It is the teachers job to allow God to reveal those truths to him & he in turn teach others
- f. Stewards of the Word are to see the Word as a sacred treasure to be guarded
 - i. If he thinks men's words are more important than God's Word he is a failure as a teacher
 - ii. If he spends more time on men's words than on God's Word – he thinks men's are more important
- g. All of man's opinions – observations – research have no lasting value
 - i. Real truth is undiscoverable to the natural man.
- h. The mysteries found in God's Word are the very core that gives our lives purpose
- i. The Steward must guard those w/ his very being & has no right handling them loosely

V.2 In this case, moreover, *it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.*

- 1. "it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy"
 - a. If a man dispensing the Word can't be trusted – what value is he?
 - i. That is why certain sins disqualify a man from being a pastor

V.3 But to me *it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you,* or by any human court; in fact, *I do not even examine myself.*

- 1. "it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you...any human court"
 - a. The **judgment** spoken of here is on 2 different depths

- b. He **isn't** talking about judging whether what is said is right or wrong – you must judge that each time you hear the Word being taught
 - c. This principle goes along w/ one of the most misquoted verses in Scripture
 - Matthew 7:1(KJV)** Judge not, that ye be not judged.
 - d. But look down at verse 6
 - Matthew 7:6** "**Do not** give what is holy to dogs, and **do not** throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.
 - i. How do you know what a dog or a swine is if you can't judge??
 - ii. Judge not that you be not judged is about judging motives
 - iii. This is about judging motives also
 - e. He is referring to the motive of the teaching
 - i. He isn't overly concerned that they might judge his motives for teaching
 - ii. He isn't calloused to their judgments & cares – but not overly concerned
 - iii. They were just human & couldn't possibly know his motives
 - iv. In fact he wasn't completely sure of himself
2. "I do not even examine myself"
- a. He states that he doesn't even trust himself w/ self-judgment
 - b. Now he **isn't** saying that we shouldn't **judge ourselves** b/c we should – we are commanded to
 - 1 Corinthians 11:31** But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.
 - i. We are to judge ourselves – otherwise God will have to do that for us
 - c. But guess who we lie to the most – self!
 - i. He thinks they are ok but that really isn't a complete answer since men lie to themselves more than anyone else
 - ii. He gives the reason why he doesn't judge himself in verse 4

d. And he goes to the 3rd depth of judgment **V.4**

V.4 For *I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.*

1. "I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted"
 - a. Just b/c you feel good about yourself doesn't mean all is right
 - b. If you are someone who lives by feelings – you will likely live a defeated life
 - i. Feelings have a lot to do w/ how you feel physically
 - ii. If you feel good physically – feel good about yourself
 - iii. If you feel bad physically – feel bad about yourself
 - c. Feelings come & feelings go but facts stay the same
 - d. How you rate according to the Word of God is what determines right & wrong
2. "the one who examines me is the Lord"
 - a. He has looked at 2 depths of judgment
 - i. #1. Man's judgment – by other men
 - ii. #2. Self-judgment
 - iii. #3. God's judgment
 - b. God knows the secrets of the heart
 - c. You can trust God to guide you into the right direction
 - i. But He will never guide you contrary to His Word

V.5 Therefore *do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts;* and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

1. "do not go on passing judgment before the time"
 - a. We tend to see certain sins as being bad
 - i. We generally don't see judging others as a big deal – God does!
 - ii. But God does!

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he

will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

V.10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will **all** stand before the judgment seat of God.

¹¹ For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."

¹² So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

¹³ Therefore let us **not** judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

¹¹ Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it*.

¹² There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

1. "wait...till...Lord comes...bring to light...things...in...darkness...disclose... motives...of men's hearts"
 - a. You & I aren't capable of knowing the things shrouded in darkness

V.6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

V.7 For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

1. "what do you have that you did not receive"
 - a. I will restrain these comments to believers only – b/c lost men fall into a different category

- b. I've known a few very wealthy believers – a couple of extremely intelligent believers – a couple of very gifted athletic believers – etc.
 - c. I've learned something from knowing those folks – whatever field they excelled in; in all other fields of human endeavor, they were as normal as everyone else
 - i. In other words, they were gifted in the field God wanted them to excel in – but not in the other fields of life
 - d. No man has a single thing worth having that God hasn't given him!
 - i. It is human nature for someone extremely gifted in a certain field to forget that they are ordinary
 - ii. That is when pride seeps in
2. "if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it"
- a. We forget that all we have of value was given to us
 - i. We **didn't** choose our parents, our IQ, our looks, athletic abilities, environment, social status – you didn't even choose your birthday!
 - ii. You **didn't** even choose your opportunities – you may have made the most of those opportunities – but you didn't choose them
- 1. When you become spiritually mature, you see God's hand having played a huge role in your life
 - 2. God has so much for us in this life – let's not spend it wasting time judging others

John 10:9-10 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

¹⁰ "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

²¹ to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

