

1 Corinthians 3

12/16/18

Sunday Morning

1. Paul is writing to the Church at Corinth
 - a. It is an immature church; a carnal church
2. He was trying to get them to see what life was all about
3. They were like so many in our day
 - a. Living only in the moment & grabbing only what the moment had to offer
 - b. Most people never stop to analyze the majority of their decisions & the long term ramifications
 - c. In other words, very few people think "BIG"
 - i. No one is ever going to live bigger than their thoughts
 - ii. That is why we are told to think on a high plane

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell ($\lambda\omicron\gamma\acute{\iota}\zeta\omicron\mu\alpha\iota$ – to put together in one's mind) on these things.

- iii. Paul mourned over believers who didn't think but lived trying to find fulfillment in the moment

Philippians 3:18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ,
¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

4. We looked last time at a core principle for the believer – accountability
 - a. Bema judgment seat
5. Now he is going to continue & explain something they **should** have already known **V.16**

V.16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1. "Do you not know"
 - a. He is going to say "do you not know" 10 times in this letter
 - b. The biggest sin in the Church to day is **ignorance**

- i. That is not acceptable to God
 - c. If you don't know the Word of God you don't know how **to think**
 - d. If you don't know how to think you don't know **how to live**
 - e. If you don't know how to live – you are **failing** at living!
 - f. No one would expect to walk onto a ball field & try out for the team w/out knowing the rudiments & rules of the game
 - g. Believers try living everyday w/out knowing how & – they fail!

- 2. "you are a temple of God"
 - a. There are 2 words used for temple –
 - i. One means temple area: courts, court yards, buildings
 - ii. The other word means Holy of Holies – the place where God dwells –
 - iii. "Holy of Holies" is the word used here

- 3. "the Spirit of God dwells in you"
 - a. There are 3 places that the Holy Spirit is said to dwell on earth, in the N.T.
 - i. #1. is in the Church universal
Ephesians 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,
²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.
 - ii. #2 is the individual believer's body
1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
 - iii. #3. is here where he is speaking of the local church
 - iv. In all 3 cases it is actually the people that God dwells in
 - b. The local church is not man's idea – it is God's idea
 - c. Because the Church is so important to God – He is going to say that causing division in the Church is a serious sin **V.17**

V.17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

- 1. "If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him"

- a. To begin to understand this we have to look at the word "destroy"
- b. It doesn't mean to destroy eternally
- c. It means to corrupt – ruin – to lead astray mentally
- d. Same word used in

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company **corrupts** good morals."

2 Corinthians 7:2 Make room for us *in your hearts*; we wronged no one, we **corrupted** no one, we took advantage of no one.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be **led astray** from the simplicity and purity of *devotion* to Christ.

Revelation 19:2 BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was **corrupting** the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."

- e. Any person who disrupts the church body by divisions, malice, or false doctrine can expect God's discipline
 - i. Be careful about starting rumors or being critical about the Church or judging another believer w/out just cause
- f. Be extra careful about introducing **unproven** different doctrine
 - i. He does discipline His own
 - 1 Corinthians 11:30** For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

V.18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

- 1. "Let no man deceive himself"
 - a. The person who brings this kind of disunity does so b/c they feel they are smarter than others
 - i. He usually believes he deserves a following
 - b. It is a form of self-deception -
 - i. By its very nature it is difficult for a person to see their error

- c. The Church adds to the problem by having a tendency to make leaders out of people b/c they are leaders in the secular system
 - i. There is nothing wrong w/ being a good leader in any legitimate endeavor
 - ii. But that doesn't qualify an individual for spiritual leadership
- d. In fact, a believer who is a success in this life – **if** he doesn't stop to **analyze why & how** he became a success – he is doomed to failure in the next life
- e. This is emphasized over & over in Scripture
 - Matthew 20:16** "Thus the last shall be first, and the first last."
 - Matthew 23:11** "But the greatest among you shall be your servant."
 - ¹² "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."
 - Mark 10:31** "But many *who are first*, will be last; and the last, first."
 - Luke 9:46** An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest."
 - V.48** and (*Jesus*) said to them, "Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great."
 - Luke 22:27** "For who is greater, the one who reclines *at the table* or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines *at the table*? **But** I am among you as the one who serves."

V.18 x Let no man deceive himself. *If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish*, so that he may become wise.

- 2. "If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish"
 - a. Nothing is more destructive to the believer than human viewpoint thinking
 - b. If you are a parent & you don't teach your child how to think on a spiritual level – what makes you think they will learn it?

- c. A spiritual level is **not** saying “don’t do bad things” – that **is** important – but **not** spiritual thinking!
- d. A child will grow up thinking like the world – unless you have taught them otherwise
 - i. They may not as debased, despicable, wretched – but their system of logic will be what the world has modeled them – and you have modeled
- e. And if you haven’t taught them to use divine viewpoint thinking – it’s b/c you aren’t using it either
 - i. The default form of thinking is the world’s system of reason **Ephesians 2:2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
 - ii. The reason the world’s system of thinking is so bad is found in **V.19**

V.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."

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

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,

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

1. “For all things belong to you” (**V.21**)

- a. I am, at this juncture, deviating from the text
- b. But in a sense it isn’t a total deviation
- c. B/c all things do belong to you
- d. When he says, “whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or...” he is saying God has put all here for our benefit
- e. I’m here for your benefit
- f. You’re here for my benefit
- g. The **deacons** are here for your benefit
 - i. And that brings us to the topic at hand – deacons