

1 Corinthians. 3:18-23

BELIEVERS: DO NOT BOAST IN MEN AND WORLDLY WISDOM

Discussion Questions

- 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.
- 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*”;
- 20 and again, “*THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS.*”
- 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.

I. BELIEVERS: DO NOT BOAST IN MEN AND WORLDLY WISDOM (Vv.18-23)

A. Because it is self-deception (18-20)

1. The Wise Must Become Foolish
2. Worldly Wisdom Is Foolish to God
3. God Catches the Wise in Their Craftiness
4. God Says Worldly Wisdom Is Useless

B. Because All things Belong to the believers (21b-23)

1. Paul
2. Apollos
3. Cephas

4. The World
5. Matters of Life
6. Matters of Death
7. Things Present
8. Things to Come
9. You Belong to Christ
10. Christ Belongs God

1. Believers boasting in Men and in worldly wisdom have been the focus of the first three chapters. If you could recollect from the previous weeks, what are some of the main arguments/reasons Paul presented not to do so?
 - a. The wisdom they are boasting about is not true wisdom.
 - b. God has made the wisdom of the world foolish at the cross
 - c. God has chosen the foolish
 - d. This kind of thinking doesn't come from the spiritual but from carnal men.
 - e. It is destroying the Church.

2. Self-deception is one of the main themes we discussed today. What are other kind of deception that is mentioned in the Bible? Could you give a few examples from the scripture of people or events of deception?
 - Sin- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
 - World/ men- 1 John 3:7; 2 Timothy 3:13
 - Satan (Genesis.3, Revelation 12:9-10)
 - False Teachers (Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 2:8)

3. Why is self-deception so dangerous for believers just to the deception of sin, the world, Satan, and false teachers?
 - It is from within
 - It is hard to identify on our own.

4. What are some ways believers deceive themselves today in the Church/Christendom?

5. How can we keep us from being self-deceived? What are some practical ways we can avoid it?
 - a. Informing oneself with the Truth of the world of God
 - b. Being watchful of the times and trends and doing a careful evaluation of everything.
 - c. Being part of the community of God and living life in the community (believers helping their fellow believers see their self-deceptiveness)

6. What does it mean to be foolish in order to be wise? How do we practice this in our lives? Does it mean to reject wisdom and reasoning and be stupid?
7. All things belong to the believers. What kind of comfort and encouragement should this knowledge bring to believers?
 - That they don't need to chase after anything in this world
8. How does the truth "all things belong to you" affect the way we live our daily lives? Our jobs, studies, and family lives?
9. What are some practical ways we remind ourselves of our "belongingness in Christ." every day?
 - a. Ask the lord for Faith and the ability to comprehend what does "all things belong to you means."
 - b. Write down these blessings.
 - c. Worship
 - d. Pray and praise God for these blessings.
 - e. Meditate on its significance.
 - f. Eagerly wait for its complete fulfillment in the near future at Christ's return.
10. In the list, Paul includes **things present and things to come**. Why didn't he include things in the past? Is there any significance for it?
11. All things belong to believers. What are some other things that the bible mentions that belong to the believers that are not mentioned in this list?
12. The servants of God belong to the church: "Paul, Apollos, and Cephas belong to the church." How does this truth affect the way we see the Servants of God? (inside and outside the church).
13. How can we make use of the servants of God, past and present, for our edification?
14. "Believers belong to Christ." How should this truth change the way we face sin and suffering in this world?