

**Christ Community Covenant Church**  
**Spirit Filled in a Broken and Fallen World: All things are yours!**  
**1 Corinthians 3:18-24**  
**Pastor Dave Scherrer – September 18, 2016**

**“You just don’t get it.”**

Have you ever had anyone say that to you? When someone says that to me, it kinda sets me off a little bit. They usually are implying that I’m a bit thick when it comes to the conversation that is happening. And usually I think that they don’t get what I’m saying. But sometimes people can hear all the words and grasp a general meaning and still miss the implications of “IT,” whatever the “IT” is that is being missed. This is the conversation going on with Paul and the church in Corinth. Paul is saying to this young struggling church “You just don’t get it.” Let’s look at the passage early in chapter 3. . .

**1 Corinthians 3:1-3** But I, brothers and sisters, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

**Lightning strikes – Paul’s Breath-Taking Doctrine**



French Alps  
Illustration: Yellowstone Park strike

**The Doctrine of *All Things***

**Colossians 1:15-17** The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For in him ***all things*** were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; ***all things*** have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before ***all things***, and in him all things hold together.

**Matthew 28:18**<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “***All authority*** in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

**1 Corinthians 3:18-24** Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness.” And again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” So let no one boast in men. For ***all things are yours***, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future – ***all are yours***, and you are Christ’s and Christ is God’s.

**“For all things are yours . . . “**

When the desire for second-hand significance and worth and power and authority tempt you to grasp for it vicariously by boasting in who you know and what you have learned of human wisdom - don’t do it. You don’t need to do it, because all things are yours.

***“All things are yours”*** is one of the brightest doctrinal thunderbolts that could possibly strike in the spiritual darkness of your life — present or future. Paul knows that when lightning strikes, we tend to close our eyes. We tend to shield ourselves and shrink back from the brightness. And so we miss the grandeur of it. It doesn't have its full electrifying effect on us. So it doesn't linger long enough to complete its whole work of setting us free from the darkness of insecurity and insignificance and the craving for prominence and power.

So in the millisecond of this lightning strike, Paul captures with his high-speed, inspired, literary 'video' some amazing still shots of the thunderbolt “All things are yours.”

He captures eight frames: 1) Paul is yours. 2) Apollos is yours. 3) Cephas is yours. 4) The world is yours. 5) Life is yours. 6) Death is yours. 7) The present is yours. 8) The future is yours.

*Paul is yours.* Paul is the Church of Corinth's father in the faith - and our faith too in many ways. For many of us, he is the one who introduced you to Christ. The one who suffers countless hardships to build you up. The most prominent apostle outside Israel. The one who was caught up into paradise. The writer of Scripture. You are not his. He is yours. You don't need to scrape for a few minutes of his attention. Every minute of his life, now and forever, and everything that he does, and says serves your greatest and lasting joy. He is yours.

*Apollos is yours.* All his Alexandrian eloquence. All his rhetorical brilliance. All his intellectual powers. All his newly refined theology. Perhaps the writer of the biblical book of Hebrews. He is yours. You are not his. And smart people like him. You don't need to follow them around hoping for some attention. Everything the most brilliant authors and speakers have created will be turned by God for your advantage — whether you are in the inner ring, or whether they have never heard of you. Apollos is yours.

*Cephas is yours.* The original one. The one whose words go all the way back to Jesus himself on the earth. The one who heard him, saw him in the flesh, touched him, smelled him. Confronted him. Defended him. Denied him. Died for Him. Peter, the pillar, the rock. You are not his. He is yours. Everything he was, or is, or will be, everything he says and does, are being woven into the tapestry of your life with perfect skill to make it beautiful and complete. [And by the way, every theologian, Christian writer, thinker, prayer and singer is yours too - see handout below]

*The world is yours.* The whole world. This whole God-created, God-owned, God-ruled, natural, sinful, broken, painful, beautiful, horrible, hopeful world is yours. Not just a part of it. All things. In this frame, Paul caught the entire length of the thunderbolt. You are not the victims of this world. You own it. It is not your master. It is your servant. From the most beneficial beauties to the most malignant cancers, it is yours. Everything in it and everything that happens on it is working together for your greatest and longest good.

*Life is yours.* Every breath you take. Every beat of your heart. Every chemical transaction in your body. Every day you face. Every night you sleep. Every movement you make. Every word, every deed, every relationship, every accomplishment, every plan — failed or successful. Every emotion that rises, every thought that passes, every book read, every line tweeted, every text sent and Facebook post, every conversation, every gift given, every sin committed. All of it — all you and all of life — is yours. You don't belong to it. It belongs to you. You are not attached to life. Life is attached to you. Because you are of God and God is life. Life follows you. Life — all of it — serves you. Forever.

*Death is yours.* O death where is your sting? *It is on Golgotha's empty cross.* Death, where is your victory? *It is in the empty grave outside Jerusalem.* Then what are you, Death? Death says — “*I am your servant. I serve you while you live to make you wise and serious and fruitful. And I will serve you when you die, to bring you home to Jesus. And to all eternity I will serve you from the lake of fire, reminding you of what you have been spared. You do not belong to me. I belong to you. I, death, am your servant.*”  
Death is yours.

*The present is yours.* All things are yours now. All things do not begin to serve you at some future time. You do not have to wait till heaven to embrace the Kingdom of God. It is here before you now. It is serving you now. Every moment of your life is yours. Every moment is your servant. Every moment is a stroke of the divine brush on the canvas of the final masterpiece called you. Every moment — the sad moments, the happy moments, the fearful moments, the bold moments, the lonely moments, the grieving movements, the ecstatic moments, the sleeping moments — all the moments, the present is yours. You are not the slave of time or chance or any sequence of events. You are not the victim of dumb luck. You own them all. They are yours. They serve you. They are God's emissaries to bring you to glory, and make you glorious and to shine this glory back to God.

Finally, *the future is yours.* Nothing will come to you in the future — the future of ten seconds from now or ten days or ten months or ten years or ten decades or ten centuries or ten millennia or ten ages of millennia — nothing will come to you that is not your servant. You do not belong to the future; the future belongs to you.

Everything that will come to pass from this moment on will work to your advantage. You will shine like the sun in the kingdom of your Father. You will be kings and priests. You will judge angels. You will have bodies like Jesus' glorious body. You will be over two cities, or five, or ten. You will be a pillar in the temple of God. God will be your God and walk with you, his friends, his child. You will sit with Jesus on his throne. You will never sin again. You will know and you grow in the immeasurable pleasures of God's glory and majesty forever. And you will experience the fullness of him who fills all in all. The future is yours.

The reality is that we have been given all things in Christ and therefore we can brag about none of them. And we have been given all things in Christ but all too often we settle for second best. CS Lewis agrees with this sentiment:

"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." ~ CS Lewis, *Weight of Glory*

How do you claim all these gifts? By refusing to trust in human speculations and self-proclaimed lofty philosophies. You claim them all by becoming a fool!

**"Become a fool that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God." (v18-19)**

God speaks wisdom into us. His Spirit lives in us and directs us. We are reminded that things of this world are temporary and the things of the unseen world are eternal. So we now know to abandon the lies of TV and radio that tell us we should have more and newer and shinier. We learn that the flowers are clothed in splendor and the birds have enough to eat. Why should we worry about food and clothes? We learn that just because we can doesn't mean that we should. We read more about all things and we are told so . . .

**1 Corinthians 6:12** "*All things* are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. *All things* are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything."

**1 Corinthians 10:23-24** "*All things* are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "*All things* are lawful," but not *all things* build up. <sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

We learn here in this passage that not only do we have all the benefits of the church eternal and not only have we received life and death and the present and future but we also know that we are Christ's and Christ is in God.

**“You are Christ's, and Christ is God's.**

You are Christ's. You belong to him the way a hand belongs to a body. The way a bride belongs to a husband. The way a subject belongs to a king. The way a brother belongs to another brother in one family.

How do you know if you are Christ's?

**Romans 8:9a** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Yes, by hearing with faith, God came to you in his word — the gospel that you heard — and by that word created life in you, and you believed. And in believing what you heard, the Spirit was received. And this Spirit is not the spirit of slavery, but of Sonship. He bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of God, and if a child, then a Prince.

**Romans 8:16-17** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

All things are yours because you are Christ's — Christ's body, Christ's bride, Christ's subject, Christ's sibling, Christ's fellow-heir. And why does belonging to Christ make all things yours? Because Christ is God's. “You are Christ's and Christ is God's.” Christ is God's Son. Christ is God's Word. Christ is God's image. Christ is God's Beloved. Christ is God's radiance (Hebrews 1:3). Christ is God's essence (Hebrews 1:3). Christ is God's heir (Hebrews 1:2). All that God the Father is or can be or can do for one like himself he is and does for Christ. And because you are Christ's, all the Father is, or can be, or can do for a creature, he is and does for you because you are Christ's.

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

Therefore, we do not boast in what human kind has to offer - we boast in Christ. Be done with all worry, and all feelings of insecurity, and all fears of insignificance, and all craving for secondhand importance. Be done with mud pies. Do your work in the deep, solid, unshakable confidence and peace that no matter what comes to you in this world — tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword — all things are yours, all things serve your glory, “whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.”

Amen.

## **Christian Theologians Through Antiquity**

Ignatius of Antioch: Also known as Theophorus is considered one of the Apostolic Fathers, and was the third bishop of Antioch. His letters have been preserved as evidence of early Christian theology.

Polycarp: Another influential father of Christianity. His exhortations to avoid materialism are considered part of Christian theology, and he was enthusiastic in combating heresies. His martyrdom is considered one of the defining points of Christianity.

Clement of Alexandria: Clement was known for his combination of Greek philosophical traditions with Christian doctrine.

Saint Augustine: One of the most authoritative figures in Christian theology is Saint Augustine, who successfully completed the merger of Greek philosophical practice and Judeo-Christian religious traditions. His treatises on authority and other theological issues have influenced Christian tradition for centuries.

Jerome: Widely considered one of the most learned of church fathers, Jerome translated the Bible into Latin, providing one of the most important texts in the Catholic church.

Gregory the Great: This pope was very influential as a theologian who revised worship and wrote prolifically about theology and spirituality.

Bernard of Clairvaux: This advisor to five different popes wrote eloquently about different matters of doctrine, especially on the love of God, and on humility.

Francis of Assisi: This saint became devoted to austerity after making some wild choices in his youth. He is one of the most well-known theologians, and had much to do with the development of different orders within the Catholic church.

Martin Luther: Many religious scholars pinpoint the beginning of the Reformation from when Martin Luther nailed the *95 Theses* to the door of church. Luther directed religious thought for centuries.

John Calvin: A French reformist who broke with the Catholic church and helped with Protestant reform efforts, influencing Christian theology and religion.

John Knox: Brought the Reformation to Scotland, and rose in the ranks of the Church of England, contributing to the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Teresa of Avila: This saint reformed Carmelite nuns, and was a prominent theological thinker.

Jonathan Edwards: One of the most important philosophers and theologians of American revivals, Edwards focused on determination and harmony.

Charles Wesley: Leader of the Methodist movement, and a theologian with a number of writings, and known for his hymns.

John Wesley: Like his brother Charles, John Wesley was known as a religious thinker who helped lead the Methodist movement.

George Whitefield: This revivalist helped bring the Great Awakening to Britain and influential in the evangelical movement.

Karl Barth: The father of “neo-orthodoxy” and influential in the movement to reject theological liberalism.

Gordon Clark: Well-known American philosopher and theologian, his ideas of scripturalism have influenced modern Christian thinking.

C.S. Lewis: One of the most well-known modern Christian theologians. Also known for his fiction, much of which contains Christian undertones.

Joseph Ratzinger: Pope Benedict XVI, is a well-known academic and theologian who continues to influence the direction of the Catholic church.

John Stott: A noted leader of the modern evangelical movement worldwide, and a theologian whose writings are influential.

A.W. Tozer: An American Christian pastor, preacher, author, magazine editor, and spiritual mentor.

N.T. Wright: A leading British New Testament scholar and retired Anglican bishop.

Eugene Peterson: An American-born clergyman, scholar, author, and poet.

Dallas Willard: An American philosopher also known for his writings on Christian spiritual formation.