**I Corinthians 3:18-23**

***You Have It All***

Introduction

1. Worldly wisdom and worldly thinking caught the church at Corinth. Division was in the church. It’s about Jesus Christ. It’s about God; it’s not about us! It’s hard for us to not get caught up in world stuff and world thinking. So it was at Corinth.

2. Last week I remembered a sports program that aired from 2001 to 2005…Beyond the Glory. The program took sports heroes and legends and told the whole story. Deon Sanders came on the screen. “Prime Time” was an outstanding athlete in football and baseball. He rose from poverty with a single working mom and an alcoholic, drug addict as a father. His idea of having it made was money, cars, clothes, recognition…women, women. In ’97 he won the Super Bowl with the 49ers. *“I was the first one to the showers, the first one home, the first one in bed. I had made it, but I was so empty.” “This is supposed to be what it’s all about.”*

3. I Corinthians 3:18-23 the natural man and carnal Christian will be caught up in world stuff. If you are, you will come to the wrong conclusions and make the wrong choices.

Do you have it made?

**I. YOU MAY POSSESS EVERYTHING, BUT HAVE NOTHING 3:18-21a**

 ***A. The Problem 18***

**1. Deceived** *Let no man deceive himself*

\*It’s easy to do. Deon Sanders thought it was money (he signed for $4.5

 million, the most ever for a corner back). He received millions in

 endorsements, cars, clothes, women, and fame.

 \*Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Donald Trump, you or me can be deceived.

 **2. Denial** *a wise fool*

\**Wise* by the world’s standards, those mentioned are wise. Deon Sanders had it

 made! Name any rock star or Hollywood celebrities…they have it made!

 \*You must become a *fool* (the same word as 1:18…*moron*) *to truly become*

 *wise.* The cross to those who are perishing is *foolishness*. Jesus Christ is

 *foolishness.* Spiritual things are *foolishness.* In 1999 Deon Sanders became a

 fool. He received Jesus Christ as his Savior.

 \*In 1997 he won the Super Bowl. His father died and his wife left him for

 womanizing. He attempted suicide off I-75 in Cincinnati as he drove off a cliff

 in his Mercedes. He emerged without a scratch. He won 2 more Super Bowls

 with the Dallas Cowboys.

 \* “Prime Time” died. He became a fool. He went God’s way and received

 Jesus Christ. He became *wise.* God filled his emptiness. Now he’s telling

 other *fools* how to become *wise.* *Why did you turn to God? “I looked in the*

 *mirror and didn’t like what I saw.”*

***B. The Perception 19, 20***

It’s not how I see it or the world sees it, but what does God see (Job 5:13; Ps.

 94:11)?

1. **The Result** *For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.*

\*Name the man or woman. Name the achievement or award. Name the amount.

 \**Moros* we get our word moronic (1:18 *the preaching of the cross is to*

*them that perish foolishness (moros)*). Paul is not talking about math, science, mechanics, medicine. There are many knowledgeable people. They are clueless to spiritual truth.

 **2. The Reason** *For*

\*He quotes Job 5:13: *He takes the wise in their own craftiness.* He seizes,

 grasps the Deon Sanders in his cunning, craftiness, success, wealth, notoriety...

 all came to nothing! God has seen it time and again!

 \*He then quotes Ps. 34:11 *God knows what goes on in the inside of man.* He is

 empty! With Deon Sanders you could see the outside with his gold chains,

 entourage, fancy cars. The rich and famous are like everyone else. There is a

 “God-shaped emptiness” on the inside of everyone. We try to fill that emptiness

 with something. The emptiness will never be filled until we fill it with Jesus

 Christ!

 ***C. The Pronouncement 21a*** *“Therefore”*

Don’t get hung up on people (Who they are. What they drive. How smart they are

 or how much they make). You are in for a fall. Most believers don’t see as God

 sees. They come to wrong conclusions.

Do you have it made?

**II. YOU MAY POSSESS NOTHING, BUT HAVE EVERYTHING 3:21b-23**

1. ***Our Possessions 21b-22***
2. *For all things are yours…you are Christ’s*

*\*Contentment plus godliness is great gain!*

*\**If you possess all, what do you need? We must know what is available.

*\*James 1:2, 3… let patience have her complete work that you may be complete lacking nothing.*

**2.** Paul gives a list of what is ours:

 \**Paul, Apollos, Cephas* each and every gift is for the saints. *I’m of Paul.*

 *I’m of Apollos. I’m of Cephas…*to restrict themselves to one is to miss out.

 Each is a gift given to them by God. Spiritual leaders are a gift.

 \**The world, life or death…the world* there is so much to enjoy. The finger

 print of God is all around. *Life* All and every circumstance is so God can

 display His power and receive the glory. *Death* Jesus rose from the grave.

 Death is not the end but the beginning. It is not to fear, but a gateway into

 His presence!

 \**Things present or things to come…*that encompasses everything we

 experience in this life…the good or bad…the pleasant or painful. **Death is**

 **a guarantee, life is a gift!** Grasp every moment. *Things to come…*

encompasses everything yet future. This also goes into eternity, our

 eternal home, our eternal hope!

1. ***Our Possessor 23***
2. Because of our position *in Christ. You are Christ’s and Christ is God’s.*
3. It doesn’t get any better than that. You belong to Christ. The Son receives all from the Father! **Quit griping and complaining. You are a poor reflection on your Father!**

**Open your eyes. Say, *“Thanks”.***

**I don’t need anything. I have everything!**

**Does Jesus Christ have you?**

***If not, there is a god-shaped emptiness that He is longing to fill!***