

## **I Corinthians 3:18-23** **We Belong To Christ**

### **Introduction:**

When we say we belong to a particular family, we mean we are born members and therefore are blood related. When we say we belong to a particular club we mean to say we have paid the dues and we meet the qualifications and therefore have all the rights and privileges. When we say we belong to a particular employment or business we mean to say we labor in order to produce a product or service, and therefore receive the necessary wages or reward for our good work.

When we say we belong to Christ we mean, He has become our mediator and has reconciled us to God through the sacrifice on the cross. Christ's very blood has paid the ransom to God and thereby makes us members of God's family through adoption. (Eph. 5:20)

### **I. The World's Outlook is Foolish –v. 18-20**

#### **A. Paul reverts to an earlier exposition – (I Cor. 1:20-25; 2:6)**

#### **B. Don't be deceived v.18**

1. World news, fragmented
2. Amusing ourselves to death – Neil Postman

#### **C. True wisdom – v.19 (Jam. 1:5; 3:17)**

1. The world is void of the Holy Spirit – I Cor. 2:14-16
2. Paul quotes from Job 5:13
3. Paul quotes from Psalm 94:11; Turn To: Psalm 94:1-11
4. No place for boasting – I Cor. 1:31

### **II. The Believer's Possessions In Christ – v.21b.-23**

#### **A. Everything belongs to us – Teachers, experiences, the universe.**

1. No limits on our possessions in Christ – Rom. 8:32
2. Albert Barnes's insight

#### **B. Every Experience in Life**

1. Life and death – Turn To: I Cor. 15:54-57; II Tim. 1:10
2. Nothing happens by chance and luck (It doesn't exist and has no being)

#### **C. The Christian lives in the present and anticipates the future.**

1. The past is not mentioned. We must not live in the past.
2. The greatest blessing is to belong to Christ
3. The believer will share the glory of Christ – Rom. 8:17
4. The believer is purchased out of the slave market of sin – I Cor. 6:20

### **Conclusion:**

1. *Christ belongs to God – v.23 The apostle earlier has spoken about Christ's divinity – I Cor. 1:1-9*
2. *Christ belongs to God – v.23 The apostle is speaking about the subordinate nature of Christ's humanity – I Cor. 15:28*