

# 1 Corinthians 3:5-23 The Work of God

## **The LORD is in CHARGE**

1 Cor 3:5-9 ESV 5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? **Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each.**

### 1) They are **SERVANTS**...

- a. John 13:12-16 ESV ... "I have given you an example" - We are NOT GREATER THAN OUR MASTER

### 2) **Servants with a purpose...i.e. servants "through whom you believed"**

### 3) They are **SERVANTS** with a master -- someone gave them an assignment

## **SUMMARY**

Our assignment in life will be to push forward **what HE WANTS TO DO**

- He assigned tasks that when carried out led the Corinthians to believe

## **We are totally dependent upon Him**

6 I **planted**, Apollos **watered**, but **God gave the growth**. 7 So **neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.**

### 1) We are interdependent

- One plants---**that is HIS assignment** - (but someone has to come behind and water)
- One waters---**that is HIS assignment** - (but someone had to have gone before planting)

### 2) We are dependent - with ALL the planting and watering - GOD STILL MUST DO SOMETHING

- GOD GIVES THE GROWTH--- **There are things that ONLY GOD CAN DO** - dependence

### 3) We are NOTHING -- ONLY GOD who gives the growth - it is that thing NO MAN CAN DO

## **He is still at work TODAY!**

8 He who plants and he who waters **are one**, and **each will receive his wages** according to his labor. 9 For we are **God's fellow workers**

### 1) They have one purpose, because they are working for the **SAME THING**

### 2) The **LORD pays well** - he pays for LABOR not FRUIT - fruit is HIS department, Labor is ours

### 3) **GOD IS WORKING** and we are **"FELLOW" WORKERS** - he rested the 7th day of creation, but

#### He is at work today

- Joh 5:16-17 ESV ...the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, "**My Father is working until now, and I am working.**"

## **God has linked our progress in the LORD to people**

9 (b). You are God's **field**, God's **building**. 10 According to the **grace** of God given to me, like a **skilled master builder** I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. **Let each one take care how he builds upon it.** 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

### **1) We are not only fellow workers, we are also the project (so to speak) - the field, the building**

- When Paul spoke about one plants and one waters, it is **GOD's field** - people
- When Paul talks about laying a foundation and building on it - it is **GOD's Building** - people

### **2) He is talking about about his assignment, (the grace) as a skilled master builder, and that someone else has an assignment for building upon it**

### **3) He introduces the need for CAREFULNESS - WHY?**

- Because YOU are GOD's field, YOU are GOD's building

### **4) God has linked our progress in the LORD to others..**

- SOMEONE - SOME SERVANT OF GOD...helped you believe
- Someone **planted**
- Someone **watered**
- Someone **laid a foundation**
- Someone **built upon the foundation**
- **Even so, there are still things that ONLY HE CAN DO**

AVOID THE DANGEROUS TREND - the idea that "I only need Jesus, I don't need others, I don't need the church" - It is a misguided concept

## **God is hiring - be careful, but don't let it paralyze you**

12 ***Now if ANYONE*** builds on the foundation with **gold, silver, precious stones**, wood, hay, straw-- 13 ***EACH ONE'S work*** will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and **the fire will test what sort of *work EACH ONE has done.*** 14 If ***the work that ANYONE has built on the foundation survives,*** he will receive a reward. 15 ***If ANYONE'S work is burned up,*** he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. 16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 **If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him.** For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

### **1) Notice the use of the words (anyone, each)-- Every man's work will be tried by fire**

### **2) What makes the difference is WHAT DID YOU BUILD WITH**

### **3) Be careful it is God's field, God's building and God's Temple we are working on**

- 2Co 7:2 ESV ***[destroy]***... We have wronged no one, we have **corrupted** no one, we have taken advantage of no one.
- Here context is focused on how I build into the life of others - 1 Cor 6 - my own body

## He sums it up...Let no one boast in men - for all things are yours

18 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. 19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," 20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." 21 **So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours,** 22 whether **Paul or Apollos or Cephas** or the **world** or **life** or **death** or the **present** or the **future--all** are yours, 23 and **you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.**

**Paul or Apollos or Cephas** - all are one and have something meaningful to impart

- Just as **all these men** served God's purpose - he now expands on the idea and includes **EVERYTHING ----**

All these things listed have the potential of overwhelming us...BUT THEY ARE OURS -- **each serves God's purpose** for good in my life

- **The world** (be of good cheer I have overcome the world) - (as he is so are we in this world)
- **Life** every moment of every day as long as you live is your life, it is a gift, what will you do with it - **IT IS YOURS** - it is to be spent, how will you spend it
- **Death** ... (to live is Christ, to die is gain) (death reminds us to seek a heart of wisdom, it puts an urgency on life) (but death has lost its sting) (it is my servant, it will one day swallow up my mortality, and become a gateway into my heavenly home and immortality) - (**IT IS YOURS - do not fear it**)
- **The present** (he is a present help in the time of trouble, the present is my opportunity to be his fellow laborer) (work while it is day) - it is ours, **seize the day (IT IS YOURS - do not waste it)**
- **The future** - don't fear it - tomorrow will take care of itself, we shall reign with him, no more death, no more sorrow, When we fear the future, we need to remember He is already there. (**IT IS YOURS**) - **it serves God's purpose**

Rom 8:35-39 ESV Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall **tribulation**, or **distress**, or **persecution**, or **famine**, or **nakedness**, or **danger**, or **sword**? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither **death** nor **life**, nor **angels** nor **rulers**, nor **things present** nor **things to come**, nor **powers**, 39 nor **height** nor **depth**, **nor anything else in all creation**, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All things are ours because YOU ARE CHRIST'S and CHRIST IS GOD'S --- IT IS ALL ABOUT HIM**

**ALL Things are yours** - YOU ARE CHRIST'S and CHRIST IS GOD'S. All things serve his purpose.

1. What would you identify as the thing that holds you back from taking your assignment from the LORD seriously, and beginning to plant, or water, or lay foundations, or build upon them? My guess is It could probably fit into one of these areas...You Own It

2. What about linking up with others to let them build into your life? Be in church, meet with Christians, disciple someone, go to a small group...God has created us to need one another.