

Not my own

ODCC 18/10/09 (XX.doc)

Text: 1 Cor 6 (esp vv19-20)

Introduction

1. The Corinthian church, as I'm sure you know, were not a spiritual church. Paul writes to them and says in ch 3, *I found it impossible to speak to you as spiritual men. It had to be as to worldlings – mere babes in Christ.*
 - a. In this chapter he deals with 2 issues – Christians suing other Christians and Christians indulging in immorality.
 - b. It's not those things that I want to minister on today but rather to take almost the very last thing Paul says in this chapter and to highlight what he is saying.
2. He says, ***“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”***
 - a. Let me break it up and let us look at each part of Paul's statement.

Do you not know

1. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the HS? This is a fact! This is true of every single person who receives Jesus Christ as their saviour. A Christian is the temple of the HS.
 - a. Paul says in Eph: *Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession”* (1:13,14).
 - b. Our spirituality is dependent on our appreciation of the fact that God the Spirit lives within. Paul says in Gal 5(:16): *“Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”*
 - c. **OR Live spiritually and that will deal a blow to worldliness.**
2. We cannot deal with worldliness, or the sinful nature, or the natural man in our own strength. We need the power of God in us, working in us to bring about the changes in our hearts • attitudes • actions • desires • focus, etc.
 - a. And the HS – who is all powerful – is powerless to make us spiritual unless we cooperate with Him and submit to His Lordship of the temple.
 - b. It's unbelievable but it seems as if God the HS can be living inside a person and they do not even realise it. Do you not know? They are oblivious to the presence of the creator within.
 - c. **Greater is He that is within you than he that is in the world** (1 Jn 4:4). The omnipotent God the HS in me and I don't even know it!?
3. Can a man go outside wearing a T-shirt and shorts and thongs on his feet and it's a cool minus 20°C and he doesn't realise it. He doesn't appreciate the fact that it's freezing and he is not dressed for it.
 - a. You'd have to believe that there was something wrong with the man. That something was not right and his his body and mind were not functioning as they ought. It would not be natural.
 - b. Paul is just as incredulous. It's like living in a house with a whole bunch of people and you are convinced you're living alone. But in this case you're living in your body with Almighty God and you are not aware of His presence.

Received from God at a price

1. The picture that I get from this passage and from others that I read, such as from Ephesians, is a slave who is bought with a price.
 - a. I can only imagine an African taken forcibly from his native home and placed on a sailing ship. The sailing ship itself would have been horrific and totally alien to all that he knew.
 - b. Having survived a terrible journey he would have found himself in America – he would have felt like an alien. Him from a very primitive and simple background suddenly finding himself in one of the most advanced civilisations on earth.
 - c. He can't speak the language, he doesn't understand what is happening. He is treated harshly. He misses his own country and own people. He is stripped of his liberty. He has no dignity. All of these kinds of experiences.

- d. Finally he finds himself at a slave auction and at some point he stands on a podium and is inspected and then the bidding begins and finally he is bought. A price is paid. And he finds himself the property of someone who has paid a price.
2. Our story has some similarities. Except that we were already slaves to sin. We have never been free but have always served the god of this age. (Though he makes his servants believe they are free.)
 - a. But God came and paid a massive price – way beyond our worth but the only price that was acceptable – not to the devil because he didn't set the price.
 - b. God set the price and it covered the cost to cleanse me from sin and to justify me as pure and righteous, enough to be able to be made into a child of God.
 - c. And then just as a slave would either receive a tattoo or a branding to mark him as the possession of his owner, or a prince would receive a signet ring from his father to give him standing and authority, or as a man would give a woman he loved a ring of engagement as a token of his commitment, so God gave us the HS as a deposit, guaranteeing that all his promises would be fulfilled.
 3. There ought to be a very definite manifestation of the presence of God in our lives from time to time. Make no mistake, our walk is by faith and not by sight.
 - a. However my faith must be confirmed. *Faith is the substance of things hope for, the EVIDENCE of things not seen,* says Hebrews.
 - b. What evidence? The evidence that is given by God the HS who lives in me (see Eph 1:13-14).
 - c. That poor African slave landing in America could not understand what was being said because he could not speak the language and neither could he be understood because no-one spoke his language.
 - d. But God the HS knows the mind of God and reveals it to us and He knows our own thoughts and is able to express them as we pray.

Conclusion

1. Let me ask you this today. Is the presence of God a reality in your life. Can you say that there are times when God confirms to you His presence.
 - a. In other words, **Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price?**
 - b. If you say “no”, you have no such experience then I want to tell you that it is true. I want to encourage you to look within yourself
 - c. God is not billions of miles away. God is in my heart. God is in your heart.