

YOU ARE CHRIST'S AND CHRIST IS GOD'S

1 Corinthians 3:21-23 “. . .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.”

Christian congregations and their pastors have reputations. Congregations are known for their excellent music ministry, strong mission emphasis, generosity toward the poor and needy in their community, etc. Pastors can be known as dynamic preachers, visionaries, strong administrators, having winsome personalities, etc.

St. Paul continues addressing the problem the Corinthian church had of choosing a favorite pastor. In verse 23 he addresses yet another human behavior that had crept into that church. They not only were choosing who was their favorite pastor, but they were “boasting” about their choice. (verse 21) He again emphasizes they were putting the emphasis in the wrong place. “All things are yours,” Paul wrote, meaning that it did not make any difference which pastor preached, taught, administered the sacraments, etc. God provided them through their pastor with all they needed.

What matters, Paul wrote, is that “you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.” As this was true for the Corinthians Christians and their congregation so it is true for you and your congregation. As was stated in yesterday's devotion, it bears repeating again today, it doesn't make any difference who your pastor is or, now I add, what congregation you belong to that matters.

What is important for you to know is God gives you all you need for your forgiveness, life and salvation through His word and the sacraments. It is not the one who delivers these to you nor where they are delivered that is of importance. What matters is that God provides so “. . .you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.”

The Concordia Self-Study Bible has this note regarding Paul's message in 1 Corinthians, chapter 3, “There is no ground for pride in human achievement in Christ's Church. Such an attitude undermines the very nature of His (God's) gifts of salvation and service. God accomplishes everything, living in us by His Spirit.”

Prayer: Thank you Lord for providing to me and my fellow believers faithful pastors to proclaim your word and administer the sacraments through which Your Spirit has brought me to faith and keeps me in the true faith to life everlasting. Amen.

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain:

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
Refrain:

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne!
Refrain:
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