

## ***1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NLT2)***

*<sup>16</sup> Don't you realize that all of you together are the **temple** (**sanctuary**) of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?*

*<sup>17</sup> God will destroy anyone who destroys (attempts to destroy) this **temple**. For God's **temple** is holy, and you are that **temple**.*

- God has His temple on earth now as surely as of old in Israel.
- It is the church, not the individuals considered as such:

## **Ephesians 2:22 (NASB)**

*<sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built **together** into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*

# **The Worker Must be Assessed by God's Standards, not Man's 3:18-23**

**(1) The Problem of Self-deception 3:18**

**(2) The Problem of Human Wisdom 3:19-20**

**(3) The Application of This Truth 3:21-23**

**McCalley**

1 Cor. 3:18 *Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.*

Is it possible to deceive oneself that what is being taught is true, when, in fact, it is worthless?

**Deception** is the creation of a belief in one's own mind or the mind of another that is contrary to fact. McCalley

**The great source of deception** is the attempt to have good standing with the world by seeking to accommodate Christianity to the wisdom of this world.

The path Paul took, obedient to the heavenly vision, **did he not** seem foolish in the eyes of all with whom he spoke?

**Acts 22:22**

**Acts 26:24-28**

It is possible to deceive oneself by practicing mental dishonesty and fantasy.

**William Kelly**

- There are those who build wisely and well;
- There are those who, confessing His name, build on the one and only foundation with unfit materials.
- But there is worse still. There is the enemy at work using men that bear the Lord's name to corrupt or destroy.

The Corinthians were deceived in that they did not see the absolute **difference between the church and the world.**

All men are deceived to the extent that their mind is empty of the word of God.

### **What is the solution?**

*If any man **among you** thinks that he is wise **in this age**, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.*

If any one desired to be wise in this world, let him become unintelligent in order to be wise.

***19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God.  
For it is written, "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES  
THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS"(Job 5:13)***

- ❑ The wisdom of this world commands the respect of the natural man.
- ❑ At times it may look very attractive even to the Christian.
- ❑ Nevertheless, **it is foolishness with God.**
- ❑ The very wisdom of the world becomes its own undoing.
- ❑ The wisdom of this world is mere craftiness, which entraps those who boast in it.
- ❑ Paul used Old Testament quotations to give added authority to his thought. **Job 5:13**

*<sup>20</sup> and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS." (Ps. 94:11)*

- All the best wisdom the natural man can produce is foolishness compared with the wisdom God has revealed in His Word.
- Unbelieving humanity cannot avoid God's judgment through its own rationalizing.
- The reasoning of the wise of this world is **useless** regarding the most important issues of life.
- God knows the plans of the wise will come to nothing even before they start to execute them.



3:21 *So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you,*

## **True wisdom**

- God counted the wisdom of the wise as foolishness.
  - But in this the saints were acting below their privileges.
  - As Christians, therefore, we are warned against glorying in men.
  - To do so would be to place ourselves in the apparently false position of belonging to those in whom we glory.
- “For all things belong to you”*

3:21-22 *For all things belong to you, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the **world** or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you,*

- The world with all its power,
- life with all its changes,
- death with its terrors,
- even as all that can happen in the present or future, are set under the Christian.
- All of God's servants were God's gifts to them.

**Psalm 24:1 (NASB)** *The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.*

**Verse 22's list is similar to the one in Romans 8:38-39 and, as there, is a way of saying "everything."**

*Romans 8:38-39 (NASB) <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced*

- 1. that neither death,*
- 2. nor life,*
- 3. nor angels,*
- 4. nor principalities,*
- 5. nor things present,*
- 6. nor things to come,*
- 7. nor powers,*
- 8. <sup>39</sup> nor height,*
- 9. nor depth,*
- 10. nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*3:23 and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.*

All things belong to the Christian because the Christian belongs to Christ, and all things are His.

Therefore, in Him we possess all things, but it is only in Him that we do.

***1 Corinthians 8:6 (NASB)***

*<sup>6</sup> yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.*