All Things Are Yours (1 Cor.3:21-23)

'Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours...' (1 Cor.3:21)

- ✓ The Corinthians boasted in their favourite leaders
- E.g. They pulled down Paul to lift up Apollos. In doing so they were lifting up themselves
- √ This caused division in the church
- ✓ Their leaders did not encourage this
- ✓ Their boasting implied they had more of Christ than others

Paul replied, 'All things are yours. You don't have to choose'

Ministries belong to the people, not vice versa. You are not there for the sake of them, but they for the sake of you 'For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake' (2 Cor.4:5)

'Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory' (2 Tim.2.10)

'For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labour; yet what I choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you' (Phil. 1:21-24)

'For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours'

(1 Cor.3:21-22)

Not only are all ministries ours but the things of the world are ours also

Also life and death are ours both the pleasant and the unpleasant

'And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us'

(Rom.5:3-5)

'For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory'

(2 Cor. 4: 17)

Death also is ours to embrace when the time comes

- The sting of death is sin. But Christ died for our sins and removed the sting. Death has no more venom
- We will shed the old worn out rags of our body and given a new body
- And death will be the gate to glory and everlasting happiness

Also, things present and things to come are ours

In this present world God will make all things work together for good for those who love God...they are ours

It is a time of seed sowing

Things to come are ours. Indeed, the best is to come

'If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable'
(1 Cor.15:19)

In the life to come we will reap a glorious harvest

. 'Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them" (Rev.14:13)

Summary:

All Christians possess all things

'And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's' (1 Cor.3:23)

The reason why all things are yours is because you are Christ's

All of God's purposes for time and eternity and for heaven and earth, center on Him

'...having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth - in Him' (Eph.1:9-10)

'For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us'

(2 Cor.1:20)

God 'has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds' (Heb.1:2)

'For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren' (Heb.2:10-11)

'The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ'

(Rom.8:16-17)

And Christ is God's

'...your life is hidden with Christ in God' (Col.3:3)