

Series: Words of Correction and Counsel

YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN

1 CORINTHIANS 6

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:19

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¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Introduction:

All of us from time to time have noticed the words “Under New Management” over the door or in the front window of some place of business. Those words convey a series of thoughts and impressions to our minds.

When we see those words, we know immediately that this business has experienced a change. The most obvious change is that of leadership

But with new management comes new motivation and new methods in the way business is conducted.

One likes to think that a change of management will bring with it an improvement in the overall function of the business. However, in the reality of the secular

world that is not always the case. Sometimes new isn't necessarily better.

In our text Paul declared a believer to be under new management.

This change of ownership produces vast differences, and all of them are for the better.

Little remains the same after the Lord takes the reins of our lives.

This passage teaches us the cure for carnality.

What is the cure for carnality? May I tell you that our text tells us what the cure for carnality is.

First, the cure for carnality is to be aware of the Savior's purchase of us.

Secondly: We should be awake to the Spirit's presence in us.

Thirdly: We must be available for the Father's purpose through us.

Note we must be:

1. AWARE OF THE SAVIOUR'S PURCHASE OF US (vs.19)

1 Corinthians 6:19

¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

We are not our own because we have been purchased by the Saviour.

As we consider Calvary we fall short of being able to communicate fully the suffering that took place there.

Consider:

A. The Anticipated Suffering of Calvary

The Lord knew the suffering that He would endure before He carried His cross to Calvary.

Think about it.

The Bible says in Psalms 88 concerning Him:

Psalm 88:15

¹⁵ I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up: while I suffer thy terrors I am distracted.

From His youth the Lord faced Calvary.

If you took a teenage young man in this congregation, and told that young man that at the age of 33 you are going to die a death that is indescribable and horrible and there is nothing that can stop it.

How do you think that young man would live the rest of his life – knowing that at the age of 33 he would die a horrible death?

I glad that God doesn't tell us the future.

Illustration:

I remember growing up when me or my brother would do something that we were not supposed to do and my dad would say "When we get home, I'm going to whip you."

The anticipation of that was nearly worse than the whipping itself.

Knowing that it was coming. I always hoped the car would breakdown or we would get a flat tire, and maybe he would forget it.

Have you ever considered that the Lord lived in the shadow of the cross?

When the Lord as a young child was working in Joseph's carpenter shop, and was handling those huge beams, I'm certain it reminded the Lord of that cross that one day He would hang upon.

Can you imagine while working in the carpenter's shop when he would take one of those big iron spikes and drive it in, He thought of the spikes that would one day be driven into his hands and feet?

Can you imagine when the Lord would see a rose, He looked past it, to the thorns, and knew one day He would be crowned with a crown of thorns.

Not only the suffering of Calvary but also the suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Our Saviour praying in agony. Praying so intensely and fervently that the small capillaries ruptured, and He sweats great drops of blood – praying for me and praying for you.

Jesus had asked His disciples to watch with Him—to watch and pray—but they sleep and the city sleeps, but Jesus' eyes will not close in sleep until they close in death.

Have you considered Gethsemane?

Not only do we see the anticipated suffering of Calvary but also:

B. The Physical Sufferings of Calvary

Consider the indecencies that were perpetrated upon the Lord.

All of these indecencies to purchase you and me.

They stripped Him.

They scourged His back with a cat of nine tails with little bits of bone, glass, and lead embedded in the end of each of those leather stands and whipped Him until His back looked like hamburger meat that had been ground.

Many died from simply being beaten with a cat of nine tails.

They stripped Him, they shamed Him, and they put a purple robe upon His back that stuck to the raw flesh.

They spit in His face; they took clubs and beat Him upon the head; they smote Him; they took handful of His beard, and they jerked it from His face.

Isaiah 53 tells us that His visage was so marred that you could not recognize Him as a human being.

He looked like some sort of an animal or some sort of a beast.

They had so brutalized and so beat His face He was unrecognizable.

Then they took rough timber; they ripped that purple robe from His back reopening those wounds and they hung Him there upon the cross.

They stretched Him out on those timbers and with long spikes they nailed His hands and His feet to that cross.

He's hung there – a mangled form on a bloody cross.

The song writer penned:

*Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer!
Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree;
Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading,
Blind and unheeding—dying for me!*

We note not only the Anticipated and Physical Suffering of Calvary but also note:

C. The Spiritual Sufferings of Calvary

With all the anticipated and physical suffering the suffering continues.

The greatest suffering was His spiritual suffering.

The heavens darkened at noon.

His friends have forsaken Him.

He is there alone, suspended between Heaven and earth.

His friends had deserted Him. His enemies have castigated Him and God the Father; and though I cannot understand it or explain it; forsook Him.

When the Lord took my place on the cross, He took all of the Hell that I would suffer; which includes total separation from God, and God the Father turned His back on God the Son.

At that moment our Saviour cried, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46)

A carnal Christian is someone who needs to be aware of the Savior's purchase of him. See? That's the cure for carnality—to awaken and to be aware of the Saviour's purchase of you.

Not only must we be aware of the Saviour's purchase of us but also we need to be:

2. AWAKENED TO THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE IN US

A carnal Christian not only has forgotten that he's been bought with a price, but he's also forgotten that he has been inhabited by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19

¹⁹ What? know ye not that ***your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you***, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

The Holy Spirit is alive in every believer.

How can we do our pleasure when we don't belong to ourselves anymore?

Remember:

A. The Holy Spirit is the Substance of Our Life

Note what the Bible tells us in 2 Peter 1: 4:

2 Peter 1:4

⁴ *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

When we are saved, we are made partakers of the divine nature. That is, when I become a Christian, the Holy Spirit comes into me, and He is the substance of my life.

Somebody says, "Your religion is a crutch."

They are wrong, it is the source of life.

In Him we live, move, and have our being.

Acts 17:28

²⁸ For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

He is the substance of life.

Without Him we have no life there is merely existence.

We need to be aware, because He is the substance of life.

B. The Holy Spirit is the Strength of Our Service

Not only is He the substance of your life, the Holy Spirit is also the strength of your service.

The Bible tells us in Acts 1:8:

Acts 1:8

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Illustration:

Someone once said, said that there are four stages in the Christian's life.

The first stage is after he gets saved, and he says, "Man, this is easy." Oh, he's rejoicing in the Lord. But then, after a while, he starts reading "The Demands of Discipleship," and he feels the onslaughts of the devil. He says, "This is hard." But, he goes a little bit further, and he comes to the third stage, where he says, "This is impossible; nobody can do this." And then, he discovers the dynamo that God has put in him, and he says, "This is glorious, glorious."

Which stage are you in right now?

The easiest, the hard, the impossible, or the glorious?

What a blessing it is to get to the point where you say, "This is wonderful. He is the strength of my life."

C. The Holy Spirit is the Secret of the Christian's Victory

He's also the secret of the Christian's victory. How are you going to overcome the devil?

May I remind you; If you haven't met the devil, then it's because you and the devil have been going the same direction.

How are you going to overcome him? Only by the Holy Spirit in your life. That's what the Bible means, in 1 John 4:4:

1 John 4:4

⁴ *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.***

Illustration:

A fellow who had lived a pretty sheltered life, mainly staying on the farm working hard with his hands was saved one day.

One of fellows who learned of his decision who wanted to poke fun at him ask him, "Now that you are saved, what are you going to do if the devil knocks on your hearts door?"

He said, "I'm going to Jesus, would you please go answer the door."

Isn't that great?

Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

D. The Holy Spirit is the Seal of the Christian's Security

The Holy Spirit is the secret of the Christian's victory. Friend, the Holy Spirit is the seal of the Christian's security.

The Bible says in Ephesians 1:13:

Ephesians 1:13

¹³ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Remember we don't keep Him, He keeps us.

It's not that we hold onto God, but He holds on to us.

A believer is secure in the Lord.

E. The Holy Spirit is the Source of the Christian's Knowledge

He is the source of the Christian's knowledge. That's the way that you're going to understand. Remember that passage that we preached on, a while back, about the three types of men?

The Natural Man, the Spiritual Man, and the Carnal Man.

Remember concerning the natural man what we read in 1 Corinthians 2:14:

1 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The reason the natural man doesn't receive the things of the Spirit of God is because the Spirit of God is not dwelling in him.

The Holy Spirit makes the Lord real to the believer and that make a difference.

When we pray we don't pray at the Lord but rather to the Lord. See the difference?

Is He real to you?

The Holy Spirit takes the things of God and makes them real to the believer.

He is the source of the believer's knowledge.

F. The Holy Spirit is the Sustainer of the Christian's Faith

Not only is He the source of your knowledge, but He is also the sustainer of your faith. How is it that you can keep on trusting the Lord? The same Holy Spirit that made Him real to you keeps Him real to you, even in hard times.

Note 1 Peter 4:14:

1 Peter 4:14

¹⁴ If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

How are you going to face the hard times? They're coming.

I read recently that in the past 30 years more Christians have given their lives for Christ, more martyrs in the last 30 years than in all the centuries prior.

The age of martyrdom is not past.

When we stand and sing, “Jesus Is All the World to Me” or “Faith of Our Fathers” will we be true to the Lord even in death?

Those who aren’t faithful in their attendance to the house of God will certainly have a hard time when hard times come.

Illustration:

Stephen was a man filled with the Holy Spirit and when they stoned him, his face shone like the face of an angel. Somebody has said that the trouble with Christians in America today is that nobody wants to kill them anymore.

Hopefully one day we’ll wake up.

Not only must we be Aware of the Saviour’s Purchase of Us and Awaked unto the Spirit’s Presence in Us but also we need to be:

3. AVAILABLE FOR THE FATHER'S PURPOSE THROUGH US

What is the Father's purpose through us? Look at our text again:

1 Corinthians 6:20

²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

What is God's purpose for Greg Irby?

What is God's purpose for you?

It is simple.

That He through you will get glory.

God did not buy you with the blood of His Son and fill you with His Holy Spirit to have you serve your own carnal ambition.

A carnal person is a person who is seeking his own welfare. A Spirit-filled person—a spiritual person—is a person who is seeking to glorify God. I've heard all kinds of formulas for being filled with the Spirit; but may I tell you, that there is just simply one way to be filled with the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is very singular-minded. I say, "God, I want to be filled with the Spirit, that I might be a great preacher." God says, "I'm not interested." I say, "Well, God, I want to be filled with the Spirit, so that I can serve humanity." God says, "I'm not interested." I say, "God, I want to be filled with the Spirit, so that I can understand Your Word." God says, "I'm not interested." "Well, God, I want to be filled with the Spirit, so that I'll be a great soul winner." God says, "I'm not interested." "O God, I want to be filled with the Spirit, so that I can pray better". God says, "I'm not interested." "O God, I want, by life or by death, that You be glorified in me." God says, "I'm interested.

God's purpose is not to make me a great preacher.

God's purpose is that I'll glorify the Lord.

God's purpose is not to make you a soul winner—it is to glorify the Lord.

I'm not saying that there's anything wrong with Bible study, preaching, praying, understanding, and all of that.

Sometimes people want to be great preachers so that everybody will say, "Look, a great preacher!"

He can be just as ego-filled doing that as anything else.

When a man says, "I want Jesus Christ glorified in my life—in that moment, he ceases to be a carnal Christian.

Close:

What is the cure for carnality? Be aware of the price paid for you, be awake to the presence of the Spirit in you, and be available for the purpose of God through you, which is that God may be glorified. You see, God is not going to share His glory with another. He is not content to be King for a day. God will not be a moonlighting king on a part-time throne, and His palace will not be a duplex. He wants all, and He'll say, "I will not share my glory with another." That's the cure for carnality.