

## **"All Things Are Yours!"**

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*by Wayne Goff*

If you gave everything to your child that he ever asked for, wouldn't you consider that spoiling the child? Absolutely. But if you gave to your child everything he ever needed, then that would be good parenting. But look at the Corinthian Christians and their desire to turn the church into a bunch of divisive groups or sects! Paul admonishes them not to do so (1 Cor. 1:10), reminds them that they are not to think of man beyond what is written (1 Cor. 4:6), and that every good gift has been given to them by God (1 Cor. 3:21).

"Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours!" Sometimes we need to be reminded of such things. We become a little too short-sighted and begin to plot, plan, strategize and manipulate things to suit ourselves. What we should do instead is focus our hearts and minds on God, and worship and serve Him! He gives to us every good and perfect gift (James 1:17)!

Every true, faithful preacher and teacher is a gift from God -- Paul, Apollos, or Cephas. Christianity is the first religious system that requires all of its adherents to be taught! Fathers are to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). Preachers are sent to preach the Good News of the gospel (Rom. 10:13-17; Isaiah 52:7). These are all God's gifts to believers.

Paul goes on to say that "life" is yours. How is that so? When it is used properly as our preparation for eternal life. Paul encouraged the Corinthians to "imitate me!" (1 Cor. 4:16) Why? So that they could receive the eternal reward that Paul received! Get ready for it now. Paul even sent Timothy to them to "remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church" (1 Cor. 4:17). You have one chance to get it right.

And "death" is ours! How? When aged saints remember that death is preferred over infirmities of age. Death is a blessing; debilitating years remind us of the curse of sin. We long for heaven, and God. Yes, all things are yours -- if you put God first in your mind and life.

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