

I Corinthians 2 - Partners with Jesus

Last time we saw the most important prepositional phrase in the Bible: “In Christ” – every promise and blessing of the Bible is predicated on that little phrase.

I Corinthians 1:1-2

--I John 5:11-13 – Eternal life is a Person! We can know for sure whether or not we have Eternal life.

--For all their problems the Corinthian church was going to be Okay because they were “in Christ Jesus”.

--Paul is not worried about them!

--John 10:27-28 – It should be great comfort that we are and those we love are in His hands—He knows how to wrangle His sheep!

I Corinthians 1:4-7 – Despite all their issues and fallen natures, they had everything going for them

An elderly woman went exploring near her village in Romania. From a stream bed, she pulled a 7.7 lb. (3.5 kg.) rock which looked to her like an average stone. Without much further thought, she took it home and used it as a door stop where it sat for decades. Then she died. When Elena, her relative inherited the house, she wondered if the rock might be a semi-precious stone. She sold the rock to the Romanian state who had it evaluated by specialists at a Polish museum. The experts assessed this unusual stone as the “world’s largest Rumanite amber nugget.” It’s now recognized as a Romanian national treasure worth over a million dollars! But the elder Romanian woman died having no idea her doorstep made her rich! (Note: Ironically, burglars had broken into the elder woman’s house and stolen a few small pieces of gold jewelry but had completely missed the precious amber doorstep!) Isn’t this how we tend to view the fantastic spiritual riches God gives us in salvation?

--We possess unlimited potential; limited only by the will and calling of God.

--If we can only realize it; only appreciate it for what it is and what He is.

--Listen to how Paul prayed for these churches: Ephesians 1:18-19; 3:14; 18-19 “I pray that you will know who you are and what you have.”

--We are gifted for every thing God has for us to do here: all the people we need; all the abilities we need; all the money we need—do you believe this?

The Corinthian church had many questions: Ones they had posed in a letter to Paul and others that were implicit in the problems they were suffering.

1. We are going to see the answer to their questions.

--Paul gives the answer to these in one single verse: V. 9.

--“God is faithful” – That’s why they were going to be ok, not because they were faithful but because God is.

--With all due respect to all of our personal achievements in spiritual things, but we got these through God’s faithfulness not ours.

--You’ve come along way because God is faithful; you would have dropped the ball a long time ago.

--We all have dropped the ball, but here we are moving forward. Who picked us up? V. 8;

I Thess. 5:24; II Tim. 2:13; Heb. 10:23; We’ve got a great Shepherd.

--This doesn’t eliminate our responsibility II Tim. 3:15; Holy Spirit and Jesus fighting for us.

--We can sure of one thing when we see a turtle on a fence post – We know for sure it didn’t get there by itself!

“Called into the fellowship of His Son” – How were they going to be Ok? Being in fellowship with Jesus.

--This little verse is such a gem! We typically run over these introductory words but it would be like running over an expensive diamond—you wouldn’t feel in your car but you’d have made a big mistake.

--The word fellowship “koinonia” refers to a partnership “called into a partnership with Jesus”
--Matt. 11:28-30-- He’s pulling this thing forward despite us sometimes.

2. Partners with Christ is a very practical concept.

--Sometimes our lives are stolen away by the “oughts” and “ifs”: “ought” drags into the unchangeable past; “If” drags us into the unseen future.

--Real life doesn’t happen in the future or the past, it happens in the here-and-now.

--Today, I’m in partnership with Jesus—this will take care of the past and the future.

3. What does it mean to be in a partnership with Jesus?

--It means that everything I own and am belongs to Him; it also means that everything that He owns and is belongs to me.

--First, my stuff – He is concerned about and has say over the things that I possess, after all He is the senior partner, right?

--We shouldn’t think that I have anything that He doesn’t care about or have an opinion about.

--Am I handling my stuff with respect to my Senior partner, does He agree with my purchases?

It’s not just my stuff, but also my person – He owns all of me as well.

--My mind, body, life; am I treating/using these things with respect to His ownership?

--Since He is the Senior partner, there are certain things I can and cannot do with my life; certain things I cannot be, places I cannot go.

My partnership with Jesus answers many questions for me.

--If this is His mouth, then there are certain things I can say and certain things I can’t; if this is His eyes, there are certain things I can see; if these are His hands then there are certain things I can do...

--I’ve been called into a partnership with Him!

--My life should reflect that partnership.

3. Jesus walked this earth in partnership with His Father.

--All that was the Father’s was His and vice versa.

--The words He spoke, the works He performed; the people He received; the glory He received were 100% His and also 100% the Father’s.

--There was no separation into His and Mine because they were in complete partnership.

--They were in 100% agreement on all things.

Let’s connect that to our partnership with Jesus: what in your life is not in agreement with your Senior partner?

--This is partnership just like our call to be a saint we have been called into a partnership that is not based upon our performance but based upon His!