

“All We Need”
(1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. We've been looking at why we should worship the Lord.
 - a. Why we should meet with the Lord in private.
 - b. Why we should gather our families together for praise and instruction.
 - c. Why we should offer our lives to Him – in our daily activities – as living sacrifices of praise.
 - d. Why we should meet as the church on the Lord's Day and express our love to Him through prayer, singing songs, and hearing His Word.

2. It's because:
 - a. The Lord gave *us* His Son to pay for *our* debts – debts we never could have paid.
 - b. He freed us from sins that would have pressed us down into hell for all eternity.
 - c. All He asks of us in return is that we worship Him.
 - (i) That we recognize what He has done; that we give Him the glory/credit.
 - (ii) That we give Him our lives and do what He made us to do: serve Him in holiness.
 - (iii) This is a very small price to pay compared to the infinite payment He made for us.
 - (iv) But it's something we'll willingly do if we've experienced His grace.

B. Preview.

1. As we look deeper, we find that our indebtedness to Him is even greater than we often think.
 - a. Consider what God's Word says about us:
 - (i) When we measure ourselves by God's perfect standard, we are wanting.
 - (a) We're sinful and polluted: a stench in His nose, an abomination in His eyes.
 - (b) There is *nothing* good in us – only imperfection and sin.
 - (c) We have no strength: we are weak and helpless.
 - (d) Spiritually, we're like rotting corpses – we're dead.

 - (ii) Paul reminds us that even when measured by earthly standards we fall short:
 - (a) God didn't call many wise, mighty or noble into His kingdom.
 - (b) He called the foolish, weak, base and despised.

 - b. But in spite of all this, He chose to save us: Why?

- (i) He wanted to save those completely helpless, so that they would never be able to thank themselves, but only Him.
- (ii) He has done it this way that *He might receive the glory/praise*.

2. This morning, let's again consider how much we owe God, so we'll remember how much we should praise Him.
 - a. Let's be reminded first that we owe Him our lives.
 - b. Second, let's remember that we also owe Him for our salvation.

II. Sermon.

- A. First, let's remember that we owe God our lives.
 1. He made us: we owe Him our very existence.
 2. And remember why He made us: That we might glorify Him.
 - a. He made us in His image so that we could see His goodness.
 - b. He wanted us to see His mercies in providing all our needs, His mercies over all His works.
 - c. He wanted an audience to experience these things and applaud Him.
 - d. Even if there hadn't been a Fall, we would still owe Him praise for all these things.
- B. But second, and more importantly, if we owe God praise for His goodness in creating and sustaining us, how much more do we owe Him this for saving us?
 1. How much do we owe Him for giving us everything we need through His Son?
 - a. In our own wisdom, we would never have found God.
 - (i) Remember Paul's audience: the Corinthians.
 - (a) They lived near Athens, the seat of human wisdom.
 - (b) They certainly tried to seek God through their wisdom; but they didn't find Him: "In the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to know God*" (1 Cor. 1:20).
 - (1) It's not that they didn't know He existed, they did – everyone knows God exists (Rom. 1:20).
 - (2) They couldn't come to know Him in a personal saving relationship.
 - (3) This is reserved for God's wisdom: the Gospel is not revealed in the Creation – which is why we do the work of missions.
 - (4) Man has enough evidence to leave him without excuse; but not enough information to be saved.
 - (ii) We never would have come to know Him either: but the Lord sent His Son to show us the way through His Gospel.
 - (iii) Christ is our wisdom from God.
 - b. Christ is also our righteousness: we never would have been good enough to have a saving relationship with God.
 - (i) Our supposed righteousness is nothing more than filthy rags in God's eyes. Paul said that his righteousness was like dung – a stench in God's nose (Phil. 3:8). We can't be good enough.

- (ii) But Jesus has provided a perfect righteousness God will accept.
 - (iii) This is the righteousness *we need*, if we are to know God.
 - (iv) This is the only righteousness that justifies.
 - (v) We need it, and only Jesus has provided it.
- c. But justification isn't all we need – we also need personal holiness: “Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 10:14).
- (i) We can't justify ourselves by our good works, neither can we be sanctified through our works.
 - (ii) Only Jesus can sanctify us:
 - (a) Jesus can make us holy in God's sight *positionally*.
 - (b) Jesus can also wean us from sin and make us holy *personally*.
 - (c) Without holiness, there is no heaven. This isn't legalism; this is the end of redemption – that He might redeem a people zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).
 - (d) We need to do what's right, and only Jesus can help us do this.
- d. We also needed redemption – someone to pay for our sins.
- (i) We were guilty and indebted to God's justice.
 - (a) For Adam's sin, for our own sin.
 - (b) If we were to pay this debt, we would need to suffer for an eternity.
 - (ii) The Father gave Jesus to pay that price: to redeem us.
 - (a) He was the only One who could have, the only One precious enough.
 - (b) This is what He did on the cross.
 - (c) We needed that price to be paid, and only Jesus has paid it.
- e. We needed wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.
- (i) This is what the Father gave us when He didn't spare His Son.
 - (ii) *We owe Him so much.*
2. We owe Him even more than this.
- a. The Father provided these things in Christ, but we would never have received them if the Father hadn't chosen/elected us.
- (i) We came into this world with a sinful heart.
 - (ii) We didn't want God; we didn't seek Him (Rom. 3:10-12).
 - (iii) If He had offered us Christ and all these blessings in Him, we wouldn't have received Him.
 - (iv) He probably offered His Son to us several times before we did trust Him.
 - (v) The Lord had to do something first: He had to change our hearts.
 - (vi) He did this by giving us His Holy Spirit to put His love in our hearts.
- b. But remember, the Lord didn't owe us His Spirit:
- (i) This is something He chose to give us: “God has chosen.”

- (ii) He didn't choose to do this for everyone, but He did for you if you are a believer here this morning.
- (iii) If He has, how much do you owe Him for this mercy?
- (iv) If He hadn't chosen to give you His Spirit through His Son, you would have perished.

III. Application.

A. How much do you and I owe God?

1. We owe Him everything.
 - a. He has given us everything – even our very existence.
 - b. When we were sinners and without hope, He gave us His Son.
 - c. Before we were born, He chose to give us His Spirit so we could receive His Son.
 - d. We deserved hell; but He has given us heaven.
2. This is why we should take every opportunity to worship Him.
 - a. Every day alone and with our families.
 - b. Why we should come together as His people and praise Him.
 - c. This is why we should devote our lives to Him, as Paul tells us, “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship” (Rom. 12:1).

B. Because God has given us Jesus Christ to be the source of all our good, we should also come to Him every day.

1. For His righteousness to justify us, and His death to redeem us.
2. For His Spirit to sanctify us and His wisdom to guide us.
3. The Father has deposited all these things in Jesus Christ: you won't find them anywhere else, and so let's come to Him frequently.

C. Finally, let's remember that Jesus is the only source.

1. The Father has not given several fountains of blessing: but only one.
2. If we are to gain the wisdom that leads us to God, if we are to have a righteousness that God will accept, if we are to obtain the holiness without which no one will see God, if we would find the price that will pay for all our sins, we will only find it in Christ.
3. If you haven't come to Christ, come to Him now, and trust in Him alone to save you. Amen.

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