

Thursday, March 12

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Corinth in Paul's time may have had several similarities to Springfield. It was a city, an active business community, which served as a crossroads for that part of the world. Many travelers visited Corinth. The people that settled the city had come from various parts of the world, and because of Corinth's economic climate, it had produced much wealth, including citizens who were millionaires. Although under Roman authority, citizens hosted sporting events and elected their local officials. Some Bible scholars think that because Corinth was a "boom town," Paul decided to start a church there to show the power of the Gospel.

In this text, Paul reminds the Corinthian church again of the main truth of the Gospel, that all power comes from Christ and that all we do should be Christ-centered. He warns against working for riches, boasting about how much we know, and squabbling over who is doing what in the church. This is a hard lesson. We take pride in what we have and what we know.

Paul tells the Corinthians, which provides instruction for us today as well, that because each of us is part of the "temple of God," God is present in each one of us. We should not fool ourselves by thinking that we can be wise by being up-to-date on what is going on in politics, the economy, or the entertainment or sports worlds.

Eugene Peterson paraphrases the last part of the text: "What the world calls smart, God calls stupid. He exposes the chicanery of the chic. The Master sees through the smoke screens of the know-it-alls..."

Prayer: Lead me not into temptation to boast about myself or about my having a direct line to you, O God. Help me to realize that each of my fellow Christians is a temple of God. Make me an instrument of the power of the Gospel. In Jesus' name, Amen

Written by Margaret Niederer