



# ALL THAT I HAVE

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV) For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

Barry G. Johnson, Sr.

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup>For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

## Thesis:

God is the Maker and sustainer of all things and therefore all creatures owe everything to him.

## Objectives:

- Everyone is in debt to God as Creator
- Believers are in debt to God as Redeemer
- Our debts must be paid

## Introduction:

Our creator has made us different for His purposes and by His design. We owe what we have to Him. Yet our first born nature boasts in the things we take pride in. It would be much better for us to recognize that all we have we owe to God.

Winston Churchill paid a great tribute to the young men in the Royal Air Force who guarded England during the war, saying, “Never in the history of mankind have so many owed so much to so few.”

The Battle of Bastogne represents one of the bloodiest action in World War II. A monument there pays tribute to the heroism of the US 101st Airborne Division: “Seldom has so much American blood been shed in the course of a single action. Oh, Lord, help us to remember!”

But when thinking of the cross of Christ, we can say: “Never in the history of the universe has mankind owed so much to One.”

MANKIND'S GREATEST DEBT

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

## Sermon Outline:

- **Everyone is in debt to God as Creator**

- We need a healthy understanding of where are blessings come from.

**Deuteronomy 8:17–18 (NIV)** — **17** You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” **18** But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

**1 Chronicles 29:11–13 (NIV)** — **11** Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. **12** Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. **13** Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

**Psalms 24:1–2 (NIV)** — **1** The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; **2** for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

**Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NIV)** — **19** Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.

**Acts 14:17 (NIV)** — **17** Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.”

**Acts 17:25 (NIV)** — **25** And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

**1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV)** — **17** Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

*[All that I have I owe to God...We owe the Lord so much...]*

- **Believers are in debt to God as Redeemer**

- He has paid our debt

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

**Galatians 3:13 (NIV) — 13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

**2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV) — 9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

- Our redeemer lives and is owed a great debt of gratitude

**1 Peter 1:18 (NIV) — 18** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,

- The redemption of believers was not a simple transaction.

**Revelation 5:9 (NIV) — 9** And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

*[All that I have I owe to God...That debt should bring devotion to God...]*

- **A sense of debt inspires devotion to God**

**Psalms 116:12 (NIV) — 12** What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

- How about we repay the debt we owe with obedience to His Word?

**Luke 7:41–47 (NIV) — 41** “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. **42** Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?” **43** Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said. **44** Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **45** You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. **46** You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. **47** Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

- Which of these examples do we reflect? Have we been forgiven much?

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

**Romans 8:12 (NIV)** — **12** Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.

**1 Corinthians 6:20 (NIV)** — **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

*[All that I have I owe to God...How we respond to that affects how we treat others...]*

- **Indebtedness to God affects attitude to others**

**Matthew 10:8 (NIV)** — **8** Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

**Matthew 6:12 (NIV)** — **12** And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**1 John 3:16 (NIV)** — **16** This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

**1 John 4:11 (NIV)** — **11** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

*[All that I have I owe to God...since I owe God, then I must pay up...]*

- **Our debts must be paid**

**Psalms 37:21 (NIV)** — **21** The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;

**Romans 13:7–8 (NIV)** — **7** Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. **8** Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

*[All that I have I owe to God...]*

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

## Conclusion:

Everyone is in debt to God as Creator without Him we would not exist. He is the creator of all things and all things come from Him. All that I have is because of God.

Believers are in debt to God as Redeemer. He has paid the great debt that I owe. Respond to His righteous acts done on your behalf and obey His commands.

Our debts must be paid. They are to be paid in obedient capital. It is God who has set the terms of repayment. Our debt to death has been cancelled. Now we must respond to new terms which bring life, so accept the offer of salvation.



1 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

## Invitation:

### Romans 10:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> So faith comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** through the word of Christ.

### Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> And without **faith** it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must **believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

### Acts 17:30 (ESV)

<sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to **repent**,

### 1 Timothy 6:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good **confession** in the presence of many witnesses.

### Acts 2:38 (ESV)

<sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### Revelation 2:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

