

“In all you do, do it for the glory of God!”

23 “All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. 24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour. 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please all men in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

11 I Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

(1st Corinthians 10:23-24, 31-11:1)

This week we have all received some fine teaching from Bishop Michael emailed out on the Gospel reading: which is excellent. I decided that I would examine the Epistle reading as the main text to share with you this morning as my first sermon as your Rector.

Let us pray:

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of all our hearts be pleasing in your sight O Lord, our Rock, and our redeemer. Amen.

Please quietly recall for a moment a time when you were greatly encouraged by another Christian. Has there been someone in your life that you admired their faith in God? Have you thought I would also like to be an example to others similar to that person?

Today’s text demonstrates that God does bring godly humble Christians into our lives so that we can learn from their examples. Of course, they themselves would be pointing us away from themselves and towards the example of Jesus himself.

In the text this morning Paul appeals to his own example. We should not dismiss this as some sort of ego trip or thinking the Apostle full of his own self-importance. Paul is not guided by personal advantage.

Pauls words ‘**imitate me**’ are said out of the consideration for the good of many, specifically their salvation. The Apostle calls on this early church to imitate him. In the very act of saying this the Apostle points the believers away from themselves – that is self-seeking. The reason behind why the Apostle Paul states why they should imitate him is, because Paul imitates

the Christ. His example points them to the Saviour. We know that Jesus modelled:

24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour.

(1st Corinthians 10:24)

You and I would have heard this line of thought affirmed in the words of yesterday's Commencement Service; the importance of setting a good example, and modelling a godly life, a life of being a disciple of Christ, seeking to give glory to God.

Why is this important:

32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God,

(1st Corinthians 10:32)

The Apostle Paul urges his friends to have tender concern for all, Jews, Greeks, and the whole church of God. He is pointing out that their conduct might have repercussions in any of these groups, and they should try not to give offence to any.

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

(1st Corinthians 10:31)

The principle is clear. The Christian is not concerned with his or her rights, but with the glory of God.

(Colossians 3:17)

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

In all that he does, the Apostle Paul gives thanks to God. Paul is living a life that seeks to honour the LORD.

32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God,

(1st Corinthians 10:32)

Again, the Christian is not concerned with his or her rights, but with the glory of God.

Last year when the pandemic emerged, you would be right in being concerned that, every part of our society had in many ways become like a

ship which rudder had been damaged. There was a real temptation that ‘everyone’ knew what is best; and so different aspects of our society pulled in every direction: this included the areas of sport, social activities and even work environments.

This was also in danger of happening within the Church.

The Godly and wise leadership given by Archbishop Glenn kept the Church from being pulled in every direction. Why?

The Christian is not concerned with his or her rights, but with the glory of God.

That statement is almost anti cultural. Yet it has been modelled down the ages through the people of God.

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever he does, that the Son does likewise.

(John 5:19)

As Christians, we are disciples of Christ. Like Jesus, the Apostle Paul, the Patriarch and Matriarchs, and the millions who have gone before us, we too are encouraged to live a life that displays that we are not concerned with our personal rights, but with the glory of God.

As we commence this new Chapter in the life of St. John the Evangelist, Gordon together:

May we recall and give thanks for the encouragement we have received and the encouragement we have been able to give, as we affirm that we will continue to ever seek opportunities to implement in our lives the following:

“in all that you do, do it for the glory of God!”

To God be glory forever. Amen

Reference:

- Tyndale Commentary 1st Corinthians by Leon Morris