

## I Corinthians-Handout #6

### Chapter 9

In this chapter Paul asserts his identity as an apostle, who has seen the Lord Jesus, and received his commission directly from Him. His right as one who preaches the gospel is to be able to have his needs met by those to whom he ministers. And yet for the sake of the gospel Paul waves his rights. It is more important that the gospel be preached and souls be saved.

Verse 1-2 - He asks the rhetorical questions: Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not you my work in the Lord? The answer to all is the contrary, of course: He is, he has, and they are. So he has the right to expect some support.

Examples:

1. Soldier, Farmer, Shepherd (v.7) all expect something from their labor
2. Oxen and farmers after plowing (v 8-10) should be able to eat (Deut 25:4)
3. Paul sows spiritual things into their lives, should he not reap their carnal things
4. Others have received your support, but Paul waved right not to hinder gospel (v.12)
5. Priests ministering in temple eat from the altar (v.13)
6. God says they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel (v.14)

Verses 15-19 - He waves all his rights for the sake of the gospel. In fact, he has no choice but to preach the gospel. He will not assert his right (abuse his power) in the gospel. On the contrary he has made himself servant of all that he might gain more for the kingdom (v.19).

Verses 20-23- He becomes all things to all men that he might save some. The various aspects of his person and life enables him to interact with a diversity of men: He's a Jew and he can interact with Jews; he's a Roman citizen brought up in a Greek culture; to the weak he is weak, etc. Each one of us is not just one thing, and we can interact with people according to things we have in common with them, all to develop relationship and win people for the kingdom.

Verses 24-27 - Is an exhortation for discipline and self-control. We who run this race should be disciplined with our bodies and minds so that we will be well conditioned to run well and win the prize. Paul makes sure that he himself keeps his body in discipline (v.27).

## Chapter 10

Paul continues his admonition on discipline by pointing us to the Israelites who, after receiving the blessings of the Lord, fell to the indulgences of the flesh, idolatry, sexual immorality, testing God, grumbling and complaining. We must see them as an example of what not to do. We must live temperate and holy lives, pleasing to the Lord. This shows that we belong to the Lord, that we are truly born again, that we don't just live for ourselves, just for our own pleasure.

Verses 1-4 - The Israelites experienced the presence of the Lord in the pillar of cloud and fire, and the deliverance of the Lord passing through the Red (Reed) Sea. Baptized unto Moses means they were identified with him, in solidarity with him. God fed them with manna (spiritual food) and water from the rock (spiritual drink). The Rock is a type of Christ, God providing for them. Christ presence before He came to earth and had a body (preincarnate Christ).

Verses 5-13 - The Israelites displeased the Lord so most of them died in the wilderness (only two that left Egypt crossed the Jordan: Joshua and Caleb) They are our examples to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Some of their sins are detailed in the subsequent verses. Idolatry (v7) (Exodus 32:6); Sexual Immorality (v.8) Numbers 25 or Exodus 32:6) Tempting the Lord and he sent serpents (v.9) (Num 21:5,6) Murmuring (v.10) (Num 16:14-47)

Let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall (v12) The temptation that comes to us is common to man, but God is faithful and only allows what we are able to withstand. And He always provides with the temptation a way to escape.

Verses 14-33 - We should make a decision from which cup we will drink: the cup of the Lord or the cup of devils. Who are we serving? If we are serving God, then we should live and walk in that way. Make decisions as one who follows God, who is saved by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.

Further discussion on food offered to idols. Followers of Christ should not go to temple and participate with the sacrifices to idols. You are communing with those who are influenced by devils.

Food put before you in someones home is fine to eat. Don't have to ask if meat was offered to idols. But if someone brings that to your attention, you should not eat for their sake.

All that we do, even the exercise or forfeiting of our liberty, we do to the glory of God. We want our brothers always to be edified, and want to put no hindrance in front of a non-believer that would cause him not to except Christ.