**"THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS"**

**Chapter Nine**

**LET US LOOK AT THE MAIN OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER SO THAT WE MAY SEE THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUABLE LESSON WE ALL NEED TO LEARN FROM PAUL.**

1) **To be impressed with Paul's own example of restricting his liberty**

 **in Christ so as to save others**

2) **To understand the Biblical authority for supporting those who labor**

 **in the preaching of the gospel**

3**) To see the importance of self-control, and the danger of apostasy**

**ALLOW ME TO SIZE UP A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THIS STUDY….**

After warning in chapter eight that the improper exercise of one's

liberty in Christ might lead to the damnation of those who are weak in

faith and conscience, Paul now illustrates how he was willing to

exercise restraint even when it came to the liberties he had as an

apostle of Jesus Christ. Though he had the right to have a believing

wife and be supported in the preaching the gospel (**1-14**), he freely

chose not to exercise these and other rights.

**1ST reason…. was so he might be able to freely offer some sort of service to the Lord**

VERSES (**15-18), 15But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.16For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!17For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.18What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.**

**Beloved the power that Paul is speaking of here is the one that is being abused all over the world through the Gospel especially in America!!**

**2ND REASON it also was because he desired to save others (19-23). 19For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.20And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;21To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. 22To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.**

**THEN There was also the realization that self-restraint was a necessary quality to assure his own salvation as well**

(**24-27**)!**24Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.25And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.26I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:27But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE …PAUL REALLY HAD A HANDLE ON WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS DOING THROUGH HIM!!! AMEN!!!

**OUTLINE**

**I. PAUL'S LIBERTY AS AN APOSTLE (1-14)**

1. **AN AFFIRMATION OF HIS APOSTLESHIP AND LIBERTY**

**VERSES (1-2)….** **Am I am not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?2If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.**

1. By virtue of being an eyewitness of the Lord

(**1a**) **have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?**

1. By virtue of his work among the Corinthians

(**1b-2**) **? are not ye my work in the Lord?2If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.**

1. **VARIOUS LIBERTIES AVAILABLE TO PAUL (3-14)**

 1. The right to eat and drink

(**4**)…**4Have we not power to eat and to drink?**

 2. The right to take along a believing wife, as other apostles,

 the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas were doing

(**5)…. 5Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?**

 3. The right to refrain from working and be supported by others

(**6-14)… 6Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?7Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?8Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? 9For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?10Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.11If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? 12If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.13Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?14Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.**

1. Illustrations of a soldier, farmer, and shepherd

(**7) 7Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?**

1. As illustrated by the Law of Moses

(**8-10)… 8Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?9For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?10Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should** **be partaker of his hope.**

1. An exchange of spiritual things for material things

(**11) 11If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?**

1. If others could, why not Paul, if he wanted?

(**12) 12If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.**

1. The example of priests in the temple

(**13) 13Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?**

1. The clear decree of the Lord Himself

(**14)…. 14Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.**

**II. PAUL'S EXAMPLE OF RESTRICTING HIS LIBERTY TO SAVE OTHERS AND**

 **HIMSELF (15-27)**

 **A. WHY HE CHOSE NOT TO EXERCISE HIS LIBERTY CONCERNING SUPPORT**

**(15-18)****15But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.16For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!17For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me. 18What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.**

 1. His purpose in writing is not to raise support, for that would

 make his boasting void

(**15**)…**15But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.**

 2. Preaching the gospel was a necessity laid upon him by the Lord

(**16-17**)**16For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!17For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.**

1. He had no choice, he would be lost if he did not

(**16**)**16For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!**

 b. If he had chosen to preach on his own, he would have a

 reward

(**17a**)**For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward:**

 c. But he was like a slave, entrusted with a stewardship

 regardless of his will

(**17b**) **but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.**

 3. But by choosing to present the gospel without charge, he could

 have a reward, and also not abuse his authority in the gospel

(**18)What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.**

1. **HIS EXAMPLE OF SERVITUDE TOWARDS OTHERS (19-23)**

 1. Though free from all men, he made himself a servant to all to

 save them

(**19-22a) 19For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.20And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;21To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.** To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak:

1. To the Jews and those under the Law

(**20) 20And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;**

1. To those not under the Law

(**21) 21To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.**

1. To the weak

 (**22a**) 22To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak:

 2. He became all things to all men, desiring to save them and share

 the gospel with them

(**22b-23) I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.23And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.**

 **C. ANOTHER REASON TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT: THE POSSIBILITY OF**

 **APOSTASY**

**(24-27)** **To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.23And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.**

 1. Not all who run in a race win a prize, so one needs to run so

 as to win

(**24) 24Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.**

 2. Those who compete for perishable crowns exercise self-control

 in all things, how much more should we who seek for an

 imperishable crown!

(**25) 25And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.**

 3. So Paul runs his race, and fights the good fight, with

 determined discipline and control over his own body

(**26-27a) 26I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:27But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:**

 4. For he knows he could be lost (disqualified) after preaching

 to others

(**27b) lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

**END CHAPTER 9.**