

Truly, A Dedication to Ministry; 1Corinthians Chapter 9

In this Chapter it seems Paul may have been addressing accusation(s) of whether he is a true apostle chosen of the Lord Jesus Christ, and deserving of reward from those whom he were ministering. And although Paul knew he was worthy of reward as an apostle, he did not require it of those he ministered to.

1Co 9:1 Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye (*converts of*) my work in the Lord?

1Co 9:2 If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am (*an apostle*) to you: for the seal (*proof*) of mine apostleship are ye (*or you*) in (*converted to*) the Lord (*Jesus Christ*).

1Co 9:3 Mine answer to them that do examine me (*as an apostle*) is this,

1Co 9:4 Have we not power to eat and to drink (*or make our own choices*)?

1Co 9:5 Have we not power to lead about (*or influence*) a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas (*Peter?*)?

1Co 9:6 Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working (*or is it that I and Barnabas, only, are without the power to choose our work*)?

1Co 9:7 Who goeth (*to*) a warfare (*or war*) any time at his own charges (*or own purpose, alone*)? 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?

1Co 9:8 Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

1Co 9:9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn (*or do not block the mouth of the ox from eating some of the corn as he grind it into corn meal*). Doth God take care for oxen (*in this does not God take care of the oxen*)?

1Co 9:10 Or saith he (*Moses*) (*1Corinthians 9:9*) altogether for our sakes (*to be rewarded*)? (*I say*) For our sakes, no doubt, *this* (*1Corinthians 9:9*) is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope (*of reward*); and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his (*Moses*) hope (*that is of God*).

1Co 9:11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, *is it* a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

1Co 9:12 If others be partakers of *this* power (*of reward for work accomplished*) over you, *are* not we (*Barnabas and Paul*) rather (*deserving of the same*)? Nevertheless we (*Barnabas and I*) have not used this power; but suffer all things (*or supported ourselves without demanding anything from you*), lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

1Co 9:13 Do ye not know that they (*the priest of Israel*) which minister about holy things live *of the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

1Co 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

1Co 9:15 But I have used none of these things: neither have I written (*instructed*) 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 (*in the Lord God, and Gospel of Jesus*) void.

Paul considers ministering the Gospel as a necessity for himself

- 1Co 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of (*for myself*): for necessity is laid upon me (*or I do it as of my necessity*); yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!
- 1Co 9:17 For if I do this thing (*preach the Gospel*) willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation (*chore?*) is committed unto me.
- 1Co 9:18 What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge (*payment*), that I abuse not my power in the gospel.
- 1Co 9:19 For though I be free from (*or do not owe*) all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more (*converts to the Gospel of Jesus*).
- 1Co 9:20 And 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;
- 1Co 9:21 To 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.
- 1Co 9:22 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 (*unto salvation/ forgiveness of sin through Christ Jesus*).
- 1Co 9:23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with *you*.
- 1Co 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but (*only*) one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain (*the prize that is by Christ Jesus, for all*).
- 1Co 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate (*self-restrained*) in all things. Now they (*of a race, run*) to obtain a corruptible crown; but we (*followers of Christ Jesus*) an incorruptible (*crown*).
- 1Co 9:26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air (*as in shadow boxing*):
- 1Co 9:27 But 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.

Foundational References:

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 - Author's Previously Published Works
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 - Separation From God Has NO Victory; But the Invitation of John 3:16 Remains, July 2014
 - Gog Magog, and Armageddon; Origins of End Time Battles, Men; and Judgments of God, April 2014
 - A Testimony of Jesus 2; His Abundant Love, Work, and Prophecy, Sept 2014
 - A Study of John's Revelation; End of Kingdoms Ruled by Men, Sept 2014
- All available in Paperback, and on Kindle, at the following link
(http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=sr_gnr_aps/180-7560732-

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 - Believing Jesus but not Zealous for Him 2
 - Apostle Paul's Book to Romans
 - Harvesting Fields in the Face of Adversity
 - Self Esteem or Self Pride
 - The Kingdom of God is not by Force
 - Others, take a look!