

¹⁵ But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void. ¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel ^[d]of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the ^[e]law, that I might win those who are under the law; ²¹ to those who are without law, as without law (not being without ^[i]law toward God, but under ^[e]law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; ²² to the weak I became ^[h]as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. ²³ Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may ^[i]obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize ^[j]is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Questions for 1st Corinthians – Chapter 9

1. Why should those in Corinth have known more than many others that Paul was truly an apostle? _____
2. Did Paul have the same rights as other apostles used? _____
3. “For it is _____ in the _____ of _____, ‘You shall not _____ an _____ while it _____ out the _____.’ Is it _____ God is _____ about?”
4. Is the one who sows spiritual things to brethren worthy of receiving material things from them? _____ Why? _____
5. Why did Paul forego the right to receive monetary support from Corinth? _____

6. In what way was Paul free from all men, but made himself the servant of all? _____

7. “I have _____ all _____ to all _____, that I might by _____ means _____ some.”
8. Give an example of some liberty we should be willing to sacrifice today in order to aid the cause of Christ. _____
9. How can we evaluate ourselves to see whether we are truly running the race of a Christian in such a way that we may win the prize? _____

Thought Question: Should the level of monetary support for a gospel preacher be determined on the basis of his family need as in benevolence or on the basis of the value for his work as in a laborer? Give scriptural proof for your answer.