9 ¹ Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? ¹ If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the alseal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³ My defense to those who examine me is this:

³ My defense to those who examine me is this: ⁴ Do we have no ^[b]right to eat and drink? ⁵ Do we have no right to take along ^[c]a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? ⁶ Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? ⁷ Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

⁸Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? 9 For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? 10 Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. 11 If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? 12 If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. 13 Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? 14 Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

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.	
nade 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 law, that I might win those who are under the law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law, as without law (not being without law; 22 to the weak I became lalas 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 ^[i] 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.	

Footnotes: a. 1 Corinthians 9:2 certification b. 1 Corinthians 9:4 authority c. 1 Corinthians 9:5 Lit. a sister, a wife d. 1 Corinthians 9:18 NU omits of Christ e. 1 Corinthians 9:20 NU adds though not being myself under the law f. 1 Corinthians 9:21 NU God's law g. 1 Corinthians 9:21 NU Christ's law h. 1 Corinthians 9:22 NU omits as i. 1 Corinthians 9:24 win j. 1 Corinthians 9:25 exercises self-control

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?
	Why did Paul forego the right to receive monetary support from Corinth? In what way was Paul free from all me, but made himself the servant of all?
7.	"I have all to all, that I might by means some."
	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.