



SUNDAY, November 4, 2018
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**“GIVE UP OUR RIGHTS TO ADVANCE
THE GOSPEL”**
1 Corinthians 9:1-18

INTRODUCTION

Paul now adds to what he has stated in the last chapter...Love overrides knowledge and love overrides any rights that we may have. Notice how Paul did not want to stumble anyone through his ministry. In chapter 9 Paul uses the word “power” or “rights” several times (v. 4, 5, 6, and 12). Today, many are fighting over their rights, free speech, bearing arms, voting, a fair trial, human rights, etc.

PAUL DEFENDS HIS APOSTLESHIP

Paul was an apostle because, 1) He had personally seen and conversed with the Lord in His glorified state, and 2) the church of Corinth itself was evidence of God’s seal of approval of Paul, **v. 1-2**. Paul was also in question about being supported for serving in the ministry. Paul said he has a right to that! **Acts 6:2-4** is proof. In the early church there were men set aside just for prayer and ministry of the Word of God.

EXAMPLES FROM LIFE AND SCRIPTURE

Paul gave examples from life situations that show that **“those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel”, v.14.**

1) The soldier is an example. The government pays his way. 2) The farmer of a vineyard eats some of his own fruit. 3) The shepherd takes care of his flock and drinks of the milk. 4) Scripture states that we should not muzzle the ox. **Deut. 25:4.** (Reward the animal for what he provides). 5) The priests and Levites partake of the offerings of the temple, **v.13**. 6) Jesus affirmed that **“...a worker is worthy of his food”**. **Matthew 10:10**. It only makes sense that if someone is called to work in the ministry, more time can be spent in serving if his expenses are covered by it.

PAUL DECLINED THIS RIGHT!

The apostle Paul could live from the ministry, but he chose not to! He wasn’t asking money for himself. He didn’t want the gospel to be hindered, **v.12**. Paul didn’t want anyone to think he was abusing a right because of the charlatans or false teachers who were just looking out for themselves as they took money from others. Balaam was an example of that. **“They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness...” 2 Peter 2:15**. Paul’s desire was to present the gospel at no charge to others!

CONSIDER

To Paul, the ministry was a calling, not a job. He was entrusted with a great responsibility to share the gospel, but careful not to stumble others with what may have been his liberty. Paul was truly giving up his rights for others.

How about you? What areas of your life may be hindering your witness to others? Unfortunately, today many people are consumed with rights and what we think we are entitled to. Are you willing to give up something temporal if it meant eternal benefit for someone else? How can we live in a way that our primary motivation is to bless or encourage others? In what ways do we need to restrain ourselves? This is the challenge of our walk with the Lord as pilgrims on this earth.

(All scripture quotations are NKJV).

PRAY

* For the Veterans Day Assembly on Monday, November 12th. Many vets need inner rest!

* For thankful hearts as we consider what God has done for us. Let’s join together for a night of praise on Nov. 21st.