

## 1 Corinthians Part Two

### Lesson #2, Chapter 9:1-18

Go to the Lord and ask Him for insight and understanding into this passage. Read Chapter 8 and Chapter 9:1-18 before beginning this lesson.

1. Though it may appear that Paul has switched subjects completely from Chapter 8, in all actuality, in Chapter 9 he is illustrating from his own life the principles he introduced in the previous chapter. After stating, *Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble* (8:13), Paul then declares in 9:1, *Am I not free?* Explain what he means by that statement and how it coincides with what he was teaching in Chapter 8.
  
2. What misconception about a Christian's freedoms in Christ is Paul refuting in 9:1?
  
3. According to Paul's little rebuttal argument, who more than anyone else should be able to exercise their freedoms in Christ? See verse 1.
  
4. Verse 2 is almost a parenthetical thought cued up by the word *apostle*. Paul is reminded that some were saying false and malicious things about him to discredit his ministry in the eyes of the Corinthians. How do verses 1-2 lend insight into what kinds of things were being said about Paul to discredit his ministry? See also 2 Cor. 12:11-13.
  
5. The first fourteen verses of Chapter 9 are a lengthy illustration of how Paul actively puts into practice the principles for Christian liberties. And in this section, he begins by asking a series of questions.
  - a. Answer verse 4: Does Paul have the right to eat and drink, to be taken care of by those he ministers to? See also Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18.
  
  - b. Answer verse 5: Does Paul have the right to take along a believing wife? See verse 5.

- c. Answer verse 6: Does Paul have the right to be supported by the churches as he preaches the gospel to them? See Gal. 6:6 and 1 Tim. 5:17-18 again if you need.
6. What do you think Paul's purpose is in asking those questions as he writes to the Corinthians?
7. What real life examples in verse 7 does Paul cite to affirm the “right” to be supported by the churches? Explain how those examples support Paul's position.
8. Some might argue the examples given in verse 7 aren't biblical principles and so they don't apply here. Paul anticipates those objections to his examples and adds more information in verses 8 and 9. What is it?
9. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, what principles about the ministry does Paul extricate from the Law of Moses? See verses 9-11.
10. What are some ways those principles are put into practice today? More personally, how do *you* put those principles into practice toward those who minister the Word of God to you?
11. According to the context of verses 1-11 what *right* is Paul referring to in verse 12?
12. Why didn't Paul exercise his right over the Corinthians (verse 12)? Explain what that would look like.

13. What kinds of things did Paul endure when he gave up the “rights” that were due to him? See 1 Cor. 4:11-13; 9:4-6; 2 Cor. 7:2; 11:7-9; 2 Thess. 3:8-9.
  
14. Just in case we might be tempted to ask every minister of God to give up his “rights” as Paul did, what are we reminded of in verses 13-14? Why is that so important for us to remember as we care for those who teach and preach the Word of God?
  
15. What does Paul fear the Corinthians may conclude after hearing his instruction in verses 1-14? To what degree does he hold to that belief?
  
16. What was it that Paul could “boast” about? See verses 11-15. Explain how Paul's conviction reveals his integrity.
  
17. Define *compulsion* [Strong's #318 (ESV, NKJV *necessity*; NIV *compelled*)].
  
18. Why doesn't Paul consider his missionary exploits and bold gospel preaching worthy of praise or commendation according to verse 16? See also Luke 17:7-10; Eph. 6:20; Col. 4:17.
  
19. What do you learn in verse 17 about the constraints Paul ministers under?
  
20. As you read the following verses what do you gather about how Paul viewed the stewardship entrusted to him? See 1 Cor. 4:1; 9:17; Eph. 3:1-2, 8-9; Col. 1:25.

21. What reward did Paul enjoy? See verse 18.
  
22. How is Paul's reward (and the reason for his “boasting”) a protection for him from his critics? How does it allow him to minister the gospel more freely?
  
23. Paul's summary in verse 18 takes us back to where we began with the discussion on the appropriate use of our liberties and freedoms as believers. How can each of the reasons and explanations given by Paul in Chapter 9 be summed up by the principles of 1 Cor. 8:9-13?
  
24. How does Paul's attitude toward his “freedoms” challenge and encourage you to live more for Christ and for the sake of the gospel?