



The First Epistle to the Corinthians

I Corinthians 9:15-23 Paul's Apostleship & Freedom Part 2

- ***I Corinth 9:15: “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.”***
 - Notice his description of the *things* (written words), he has already expressed in this chapter, as *boasting* (vs. 4-6, 12), why?
 - Is Paul trying to make the church at Corinth feel guilty by not supporting him?
 - Is this how the church today supports elders and missionaries?
 - And look at the alternative, death.
 - But Paul feels so strong about the spread of the gospel!
 - 2 Cor 11:10 - *As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia.*
- ***I Corinth 9:16: “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes,***



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woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!”

- Was Paul's *necessity* of *preaching the gospel* a burden?
 - Gal 1:15,16 - *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,*
- Why *woe*, isn't *woe* of the flesh?
 - Jeremiah had a similar view
 - Jer 20:9 - *Then I said, “I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name.” But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.*
- ***I Corinth 9:17,18: “For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the***



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gospel.”

- Who's will, Paul's or the new man in Christ Jesus?
 - *Rom 7:18,19 - For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.*
- Paul answers this doesn't he?
 - *For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship*
- So what is his pay?
- Again he answers himself
 - *That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge*
- And it is not of himself, but the new man in Christ Jesus
 - *Acts 9:15 - But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.*

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- *Rom 9:16 - So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.*
- ***I Corinth 9:19: "For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;"***
 - How do you interpret *I am free from (out of) all men?*
 - Why does Paul say *I have made myself a servant to all*, hasn't the Lord done this?
 - *Matt 23:11 - "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.*
 - *that I might win the more;*
 - *I Thess 2:19,20 - For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.*
- ***I Corinth 9:20-22: "and to the Jews I became as***

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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; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ, that I might win those who are without law; to weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

- This section of the NT is so often quoted isn't it.
- Let's look at *None but the Hungry Heart*, June 25
- What is the gospel to the Jew?
 - *1 Cor 1:23 - But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block,*
- And to the Gentile?



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- *1 Cor 1:23 - But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;*
- In context let's interpret what this **stumbling block** and **foolishness** mean to us today.
- Examples:
 - To get Timothy into the synagogue, Paul had him circumcised, and he kept the feasts.
 - *Acts 16:3 - Him (Timothy) would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.*
 - *Acts 18:21 - But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.*
 - While on Mars Hill, Paul gets the attention of a pagan.
 - *Acts 17:23 - For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.*
- Is Paul compromising himself here?



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- No, Paul teaches us that adjustment and adaptation can be made without compromising of truth.
- Can anyone share any experiences here?
- This is all part of the freedom Paul speaks about in v. 19.
- Paul was a Jew and knew all of their traditions and ways, but yet he was called to the Gentiles and by his knowledge of the Gentile world system and the power of the Holy Spirit within his preaching of the gospel has had endless impact.
 - Notice *he became as a Jew*, why?
 - » Gal 3:28 - *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*
- What is *the law toward (of) Christ*?
 - Rom 8:2 - *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*
 - Rom 10:4 - *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*
 - Gal 6:2 - *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*



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- What does Paul mean when he said *became I weak and become all things to all men* ?
 - An atmosphere of humility
 - Rom 15:1 - *We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*
 - 1 Cor 10:33 - *just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.*
 - An exchanged life
 - 1 Cor 4:10 - *We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored!*
- ***1 Cor 9:23: "Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you."***
 - Not only the gospel but the fellowship that follows!