

*<sup>13</sup>“Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar **have their share with the altar?**”*

The word **share** has 2 important points.

1. Tense: present tense, routine on going practice
2. Plural number points to a group.
  - a. That group is other than Paul.
  - b. The practice of **others** is different than mine.

The **others** referred to would take in teachers such as Apollos.

*<sup>14</sup>“So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the **gospel to get their living from the gospel.**”*

<sup>15</sup> *But **I have used none of these things**. And I am not writing these things so that it will be done so in my case; for it would be better for me to die than have any man make my boast an empty one.*

I might eat and drink, **but I do not;**

I might marry, **but I do not;**

I might be paid for my services, **but I am not;**

You indulge yourselves, **but I do not.**

Refusal to exercise a right is relative to a given situation. Only at Corinth.

Refusal of a right is never to be used to manipulate.

Refusal to exercise a right must be rooted in the deepest conviction.

Refusal to exercise a right does not diminish a right or establish a pattern.

*15 But I have used none of these things. And I am not writing these things so that it will be done so in my case; for it would be better for me to die than have any man make my boast an empty one.*

**It is important to see also that to preach is not a thing to boast of.**

It is an indebtedness — a passion to The Lord Jesus who has called him and conferred a gift for this very purpose.

*<sup>16</sup> For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.*

## **Can Paul boast about something he is forced to do?**

When Paul says **he has nothing to boast about** because he is under compulsion, he means he cannot boast in what he is obligated to do. McCalley

He had no choice about preaching the gospel.

Therefore, it is that Paul adds, "*For woe is to me if I preach not the gospel.*"

*<sup>17</sup> For if I do this **voluntarily**, I have a **reward**; but if **against my will**, I have a **stewardship entrusted to me**.*

If he preached the gospel willingly, he would receive a reward from the Lord. (**closer intimacy**)

If he did so **unwillingly**, he would not receive a reward but would be **simply doing his duty as a steward (manager of a household)**.

1 Cor. 4:1-2

**Paul must preach the gospel, therefore he cannot glory in it because it is a responsibility from Jesus Christ.**

***18 What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.***

### **What was Paul's Reward?**

Paul's reward for preaching the gospel willingly was **the privilege of preaching it without cost to his hearers.**

The force of the words *to make full use*

“to use as one that has possession of a thing”, or a person “using it as he likes, as his own” (J.N.D.).

*19 “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more.”*

- Paul refused compensation, and this gave him a special kind of freedom—he owed no one anything.
- He chooses to be a slave (*doulosa myself a bondman*) to men with a view to winning them. In a sense, the slave controls the master.
- *“that I might win the more.”* It is **not** the more, but **the greatest number possible**, the whole mass that he could reach by these means.

<sup>20</sup>“*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, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law;*

How did Paul accommodate the Jews?

Acts 16:1-3 Timothy circumcised

Acts 17:23 No Name God in Athens

Acts 21: 20-26 Paul Took A Vow

How did Paul accommodate those Gentiles under a law system?

Rom. 2:14

***<sup>21</sup> to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law.***

The contrast between [Romans 6:14](#) and [1 Corinthians 9:21](#).

Romans 6:14      “*We are Not under law*”

1 Cor. 9:21      “*under the law of Christ*”

Example: Human Body

To speak of a believer’s being “*under the Law to Christ,*” would be no more true. Newell

<sup>22</sup> *To the weak I became **weak**, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.*

### **Who are the weak?**

The weak are those who have extremely sensitive consciences in the area of amoral practices.      Constable

the scruples of the feeblest      Kelly

His was self-sacrifice in a faith which had only Christ for its object, and the bringing of every soul within one's reach into contact with Christ's love.