

1 Corinthians 9

King James Version (KJV)

9 Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? (Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes)

²If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord. (The Christians at Corinth are the proof that Paul was sent to them by God) (apostle = a sent one)

³Mine answer to them that do examine me is this, (Paul was being criticized by "holy Joes". They were smearing him with lies and rumors)

⁴Have we not power to eat and to drink? (power = the right – better translation)

⁵Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? (Cephas is Peter. He was married)

⁶Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working? (Paul had a profession <tent making> so that he didn't ask for money to teach. He was being criticized by money grubbing preachers, for not getting paid in tithes. He was making the begging preachers look bad)

NOTE: (A preacher taking a modest salary from tithes is OK. Getting rich off of tithes is not. Paul preferred to make tents for a living and to preach for free. He never took tithes for himself)

⁷Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? (Paul is making a case for preachers to get paid a reasonable salary for teaching. He should make a salary that is comparable to the salaries of the people that he teaches)

(Stay away from wealthy preachers. They are doing it for the money)

⁸Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

⁹For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

See Deuteronomy 25:4

1Timothy-5:18 (The ox is working for the farmer by pulling the plow. Let it eat a little of the grain as it works. Let it eat after it is done working)

(Paul was saying - do you think that God cares more about oxen than people? No He doesn't. Paul is saying that a preacher may take a small portion of the tithes, as a salary to feed himself and his family)

NOTE: (But he wasn't speaking of the millionaire preachers who continually beg for more money, while they live like kings in their mansions. They have nothing to do with God. Their gains are ill gotten)

¹⁰Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. (We all have a different part to do in God's ministry. Some plow, some sow, some reap. All are equally entitled and will receive equal blessings for their work. All people are allowed to have a salary in recompense for their work)

¹¹If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

¹²If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ. (Paul didn't even ask for a salary. He earned a living as a tentmaker)

¹³Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? (The priest got a share of the animal sacrifice in the old Hebrew law. Today, the preacher is entitled to a reasonable salary, comparable to the salaries of his flock; if he teaches the Word of God

chapter by chapter, verse by verse. He is not entitled to all the money that he can collect)

NOTE: (If the preacher teaches from his / her own sermons, instead from God' Word, then he / she deserves nothing. These are traditions of men and not of God)

¹⁴Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel. (Teach the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Modern preachers who only teach the New Testament are not teaching God's Word fully. The Old and New Testaments go together like a pair of shoes. One complements and fulfills the other)

¹⁵But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void. (Paul earned his living through tent making, not on tithes. He taught because he believed in Jesus Christ as God with us. He knew that he was sent by God Himself. He didn't see his ministry as a means to make money)

¹⁶For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! (God deserves the glory and the praise, not the preacher)
Acts-9:15 (God said – Paul is my chosen vessel. I am sending him to teach My Word)

¹⁷For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me. (Paul's reward will be in Heaven)

Romans-11 (All gifts from God are given without repentance)

(But, the Gospel also teaches that those who refuse God; and instead, teach men's doctrines < like sermons> are not blessed. God will deal with them in the Millennium. They can do more harm than good)

¹⁸What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel. (Paul taught humbly and converted many people. He knew that God loved him; and would reward him in the after life)

(His reward in this life was to see his ministry grow and flourish. He brought God's Word to more people than any of the other apostles)

¹⁹ For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (Paul was a free born Roman citizen. But he served people that he taught <both free men and servants>; just as any true minister should serve his flock – and not himself) see Matthew-23:11-14

²⁰ And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; (Paul's mother was a Benjamite, his father was a Roman citizen. He studied the Old Testament at the Temple in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. He learned the New Testament under Jesus Christ and the Apostles)

NOTE: (Jesus fulfilled the blood ordinances for all time, on the cross. HE never ended the law <the 10 Commandments> as some preachers teach)

²¹ To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. (These were the heathen people who didn't know about Christianity – the Gentiles. Paul taught them using everyday common sense. The Ten Commandments are common sense – right from wrong)

²² To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. (Paul set himself on the student's level of understanding; in order to reach them. He didn't have any ego problems. He didn't present himself as a know-it-all) see Matthew-23:11-14

²³ And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. (Paul did it for God; and to bring God's blessings to these people)

²⁴ Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. (Learn the Word. Do your best to live it, the best you can. Work at it continually, in order to become

better and better at it. Develop your spiritual muscles, like you develop your physical muscles)

NOTE: (Too many Christian churches, today, only teach the salvation message over and over. They never get to the deeper teachings of God's Word. The result is that their congregation remains Biblically illiterate)

²⁵ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. (The ways of the world <wealth, power, status> won't help you in the afterlife. Only through Christ will we obtain immortality and true happiness in the eternity. Helping others to find God will increase your reward and theirs in Heaven)

²⁶ I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: (Paul was zealous in spreading the Word of God, and he was persecuted for it. He wasn't concerned about the ways of the world or the people who tried to stop him from teaching God's Word)

²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. (Practice what you preach. The preacher is not above the Word. To teach falsely or for one's personal gain will result in disgrace)

NOTE: (Look around. There are so many wealthy preachers begging the congregation for tithes, while teaching traditions of men. They will get nothing in the after life)