

Sunday, March 5, 2017—I Corinthians 9:19-23: All Things to All Men

### **Introduction**

- Last Sunday we continued our study of I Corinthians 9 by looking at verses 15 through 18. In these verses we observed the following points:
  - Verses 16-17—Paul had no choice in terms of preaching the gospel. Necessity had been laid upon him to do so. A dispensation of the gospel had been committed unto him.
  - Verse 18—Paul would find his reward in making the gospel of Christ without charge. This is why he did not utilize his power as a Apostle earlier in the chapter.
- Toward the end of the message, as we talked about verse 18 I mentioned the Pauline Principles regarding reward that we covered in chapter 3 when we were talking about the Judgement Seat of Christ.
  - *Principle 1*—there is a difference between inheritance and reward. (Eph. 1:11-14; Rom. 8:17)
  - *Principle 2*—a man reaps what he sows. (Gal. 6:7-9)
  - *Principle 3*—reward is simply payment or recompense for a man’s labor. (I Cor. 3:8; I Tim. 5:18)
  - *Principle 4*—reward is reckoned as a matter of debt. (Rom. 4:4, 11:6)
  - *Principle 5*—reward is given for bad works. (II Tim. 4:14)
  - *Principle 6*—reward is reckoned on the basis of work/labor. (I Cor. 3:8, 14-15)
  - *Principle 7*—a believer’s good works are fruit for which they will receive a reward. (Titus 3:14; Col. 1:10)
  - *Principle 8*—positive reward is given for work willingly performed; not for things that we are obligated to do. (I Cor. 9:16-18)
- Given the our study last week of verses 15 through 18, I would like to review the 8<sup>th</sup> principle identified above.

### **Review of Principle 8: Paul’s Reward**

- *Principle 8*—positive reward is given for work willingly performed; not for things that we are obligated to do. (I Cor. 9:16-18)

- In an earthly sense is there a reward for being a law abiding citizen? No.
- I Corinthians 9:16—Paul was obligated to preach the gospel. Necessity was laid upon Paul to preach the gospel.
  - *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* defines necessity as follows: 1) That which must be and cannot be otherwise, or the cause of that which cannot be otherwise. 2) Irresistible power; compulsive force, physical or moral.
- If a man's actions are determined by causes beyond his control, he acts from necessity, and is not a free agent.
- I Corinthians 7:37—necessity is the opposite of having power over your own will.
- Philemon 14—necessity and willingly are opposites.
- II Corinthians 9:7—giving of necessity and grudgingly are the opposite of cheerful giving.
- Acts 9:6—Jesus Christ told Paul what he "must do."
- Romans 1:14—Paul was a debtor to Jews and Gentiles because he had been entrusted with the truth.
- I Timothy 3:1—today, unlike Paul, one chooses their ministry based upon desire.
- I Corinthians 9:16—there was no glory for Paul in the act of preaching the gospel because he was necessarily obligated to do so.
- I Thessalonians 2:19-20—Paul's glory at the judgment seat of Christ will be in the people he ministered to.
- I Corinthians 9:17—did Paul preach the gospel willingly or against his will? Against his will. It is not that Paul was unhappy to preach the gospel but that he did not choose to have the Lord appear to him on the road to Damascus and commit a dispensation unto him.
- II Timothy 1:10-11—Paul did not act willingly because he was appointed a preacher and had to do certain things. Paul didn't chose to have the Lord appear to him on the road to Damascus. Jonah would be an Old Testament example of this concept. Paul had a dispensation committed to him that he had to fulfill. He had no reward for preaching because it was an obligation.
- Positive reward is given for things we are not required to do. If you are required to do it, you don't receive a reward in a positive sense.

- I Corinthians 4:1-2—there is no reward simply for holding to Pauline doctrine since this is something that you are required to do.
- The relevant question is this: What do you do willingly? What do you freely give? What do you sacrifice? We are not just talking about money, but time, talent, effort, etc.
- I Corinthians 9:18—Paul's "reward" was to make the gospel free of charge. His reward was derived out of something he could do that he was not required to do. This is what he could voluntarily give of himself.
- I Corinthians 9:1-6—Paul used his power sparingly and with a view for benefitting others. Paul did this willingly not of necessity. Consequently, there is a reward associated with it because Paul willingly laid aside the power that was given unto him as an apostle to function in this manner. Paul used his power sparingly and with a view for benefitting others.
- I Corinthians 9:19—Paul took the mindset of a servant so that he “might gain more.” It is in this that Paul would be rewarded.
- Don't think of your Christian life as doing what you are required to do. Think of what you can do that you are not required to do.
- On the negative side, failing to do what you are required to do can result in the loss of reward.