

for their material support.”<sup>1</sup>

## PAUL GIVES UP HIS RIGHTS (I Corinthians 9:15-23)

In Paul's expression of Christian Liberty, he has shown that love is the guiding factor. The church had been supporting others, and he knew he had the right to receive a salary also, and he expressed that to them. Now he proceeds to explain why he would not accept their support even if they offered it. He was committed to self support, in fact, he would have lived a deprived life if he had too, before he would accept support from the Corinthian congregation (I Corinthians 9:15).

1. In I Corinthians 9:16, where Paul says, . . . *For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me, if I preach not the gospel!* To what is he referring? (Acts 9:6,15) \_\_\_\_\_

Paul would have been rebelling against God had he not preached the gospel (Romans 1:14; Galatians 1:15). Preaching had become Paul's total life. He was not a volunteer. God had picked him out. He could no more stop preaching than breathing (I Corinthians 9:17).

### **9:19 I MADE MYSELF SERVANT UNTO ALL.**

Paul uses himself as an example of the principle of self-denial for the sake of others. He renounces his

## NINETH STUDY

### CRITICISM OF PAUL ANSWERED BY PAUL PAUL DEFENDS HIS APOSTLESHIP (I Corinthians 9:1,2)

There were some Corinthians who questioned Paul's apostleship.

1. List the 4 questions Paul asks the Corinthians in defense of his apostleship? (I Corinthians 9:1)  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_  
(4) \_\_\_\_\_

In Paul's question concerning his freedom, he was referring to his freedom from all secular and religious bondages (I Corinthians 9:1).

2. In I Corinthians 9:2, Paul claimed one more proof which was his seal of apostleship. What was it? \_\_\_\_\_

The Corinthian Church and believers were Paul's seal of proof in the Lord, of his apostleship. This was his success of his work among them. Their conversion was his seal.

### PAUL CLAIMS RIGHT TO MATERIAL SUPPORT (I Corinthians 9:3-14; cf. Luke 10:7)

Evidently, Paul's rights were being examined by some of the Corinthian believers. To prove this point, in I Corinthians 9:3, Paul says, *Mine answer to them that do examine me is this* ---- then, he “turns the

1. Godet, op. cit, II, 23; Beacon Bible Commentary, volume 8, p. 399.

“tide” so-to-speak, by asking them more questions in defense.

As we studied the ‘Life of Christ,’ we read many times, where Jesus answered a question with a question.

Paul first begins by mentioning his rights to be supported by the Church in food and drink.

1. What was the next issue Paul mentioned? (I Corinthians 9:5) \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Although Paul (and Barnabas) and all those with them, had the power (privilege; right; freedom) to carry along with them a wife or sister, that was to be supported by the Church also; Paul and Barnabas chose to use their trades to support themselves in certain areas of that known world.

Peter and the Lord’s brother, James: and all who had wives or sisters, and wanted to take them along, would bring them on these trips (I Corinthians 9:5; ref. Luke 10:7; Acts 4:36,37).

Apostles in general, were supported by the Churches, not secular labor.

2. Name and explain at least one of the examples Paul gives in I Corinthians 9:7-11, showing the workman is worthy of his hire. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

In I Corinthians 9:12, Paul reasons, that of **others**, such as Jewish teachers, have the privilege of being supported by their congregations, he has even greater right to support. Nevertheless, he never exercised this power. <sup>1</sup>

3. What reason did Paul give for not exercising his right to a salary? (I Corinthians 9:12) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If Paul had exercised his right in this matter, he might have been accused of preaching for personal gain and thus have weakened his influence. <sup>1</sup>

4. Is it the Lord’s plan according to I Corinthians 9:14, for apostles and ministers to be supported by regular salaries? Yes \_\_\_ or No \_\_\_

Paul says, in I Corinthians 9:14, . . . *The Lord ordained . . . that those which . . . preach the gospel should live of the gospel* (Matthew 10:10; Luke 10:7). Because some have received a specific call and have devoted themselves fully to the spiritual task, turning away from secular gain, “the Church to which they thus consecrate their life is bound to provide

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, volume 8, pp. 398,399.  
2. Full Life Study Bible, p. 366 study note.