**Be Wise about Personal Priorities**

**(1 Corinthians 9)**

***Paul presented a defense of his financial policy as a servant of Christ.***

* **He defended his right to receive support by…** (9:1-14)
* Establishing that he is an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 1-6)
* The apostles were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to lay the foundation of the church. (Eph. 2:20)
* One of the qualifications for being an apostle was a personal experience of seeing the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christ. (Acts 1:21-22)
* Paul saw the Lord when he was traveling to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to arrest Christians. (Acts 9:1-9)
* Commonly understood \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of life. (v. 7)
* The Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 8-12)
* If we receive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_blessings, we should in turn share \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ blessings. (I Corinthians 9:11)
* Those who teach us the Word have the right to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to support them. (Gal. 6:6-10)
* Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (v. 13)
* The priests and Levites lived off of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that were brought to the temple. (Numbers 18:8-32; Leviticus 6:14–7:36; 27:6-33)
* If the Old Testament ministers under law were supported, shouldn’t those who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ under grace also be supported?
* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus. (v. 14)
* The laborer is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of his hire is a fundamental principle that the church should not neglect.
* The Corinthians did would not have a copy of either gospel of Luke to refer to, but Jesus’ teaching would have been given to them as a part of the oral tradition shared by the apostles. (Matthew 10:10 & Luke 10:7-12)
* **He defended his right to refuse support…** (9:15-27)
* Paul had the right, because of his authority, to receive material support, but he balanced his authority with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gave up his rights.
  + He gave the Corinthian believers a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ example of the very principles he was writing about.

*Paul gave three reasons on why he had refused support from the Corinthians.*

* For the sake of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 15-18)
  + Paul did not want anything to hinder their receiving gospel. (1 Cor. 9:12)
* God had given Paul a divine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (stewardship) to preach the good news, and “it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).
* Paul’s reward was the joy of preaching the gospel without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
* This meant that no man could accuse him of underhanded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as he shared the good news of Jesus Christ.
* For the sake of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 19-23)
* Paul was a Jew who had a great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for his own people (Rom. 9:1-3; 10:1).
* But his special calling was to minister to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 3:8).
* Paul was very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his approach to sinners, for his purpose was to win people to Christ.
* Paul followed the example Jesus and humbled himself to become the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of all.
* For the sake of his own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God. (vs. 24-27)
* The Christian does not run the race in order to get to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* He is in the race because he has been saved through faith in Jesus Christ.

**So What Now?**

*The emphasis of this entire chapter: Authority (rights) must be balanced by discipline. If we want to serve the Lord and win His reward and approval, we must pay the price.*

* Our one great goal in life is to glorify the God by winning the lost and building up the saints.
* To reach this goal, we must be willing to pay any price.
* We willingly give up personal rights!
* We must sacrifice immediate gains for eternal rewards, immediate pleasures for eternal joys.