

1 Corinthians 23 – 9:6-18

The Power to be Paid

1. 9:6-7 – Paul’s Power Not Used

- a. Common (non)sense: if it’s free, take it; if you can, do it; if you have it, flaunt it.
- b. “I only...” Paul’s power only, everyone else work’s - 2 Thess 3:7-10
- c. Who? Answer: Apparently Paul (1 Cor 9:12, 15), not Peter → Mat 10:5-10
- d. “forbear working” even as the Lord instructed - Luke 12:24-31, Acts 4:33-36
- e. He deserved honor, but did not demand it. He had the right, but did not use it.

2. 9:8-10 – The Law For Our Sakes

- a. Liberty doesn’t force payment (2 Cor 9:6-7); the response to grace is gratitude
- b. Tithing is the most blatantly fraudulent teaching today – Mal 3:9 vs. Gal 3:11-13
- c. Doubly sad: there is less gratitude than tithing – 1 Tim 5:1, 2, 3, 8, 17-18
- d. God cares for the oxen through those who operate under the law – Deu 25:4
- e. God cares for laborers through the mature operation of grace – 1 Cor 9:11, Gal 6:6

3. 9:11-14 – Reaping and Sowing

- a. Paul wants to give a spiritual gift Rom 1:11, and it is delivered by Rom 16:25
- b. Our blessings are spiritual (Eph 1:3), and are the things that last - 1 Tim 4:8
- c. There were others who partook of carnal (money) things – Rom 15:27, Gen 12:2
- d. The Gentiles partook of the spiritual things: Rom 11:11, Eph 3:6, Col 1:12, Titus 1:2
- e. “should live of the gospel” - every tithing pastors recourse is a grace giving audit
- f. Not every “workman” is worthy, believers purpose the payment (2 Tim 2:2,15)

4. 9:15-18 – Paul’s Glory

- a. Paul is not asking for money; he is teaching them maturity Phil 4:15-17, 2 Cor 8:7
- b. 9:17 – Paul did not choose his ministry, he had necessity: Gal 1:1, 11-12, 2 Tim 2:8
- c. 9:16 – His glory is not himself, but that he doesn’t charge: 2 Cor 12:5-10
- d. His reward: that he is spent for their sakes; as Christ was also - 2 Cor 12:11-15
- e. The crown is people and their mature operation - Phil 4:1, 1 Ths 2:19, Gal 4:11
- f. His measure is the faithfulness of 2 Tim 2:2, the spirituality of 1 Cor 2:15-16