

1 Corinthians 24 – 9:18-27

How Paul Gains Men

1. 9:18-19 – Paul’s Service to All

- a. Paul has power, but he does not use it to avoid abuse - 1 Cor 7:31, 1 Thess 5:22
- b. A corrupt messenger tarnishes the message – 2 Cor 8:20-21, Rom 14:16
- c. Leave the opposition with nothing to say - Phil 2:14-16, Titus 1:7 & 11, 2:5,8,10
- d. “If you are free: use it.” Paul has the power to be paid or not – 1 Cor 7:21-22
- e. “without charge” – when it’s free more people take it, Paul makes it free.
- f. Paul uses his freedom to “gain the more” people not money – 1 Cor 9:20-23
- g. Paul serves others for the sake of their salvation - 2 Tim 2:10, Rom 9:1-2

2. 9:20-23 – Winning Souls

- a. Someone who wins souls is wise: it’s about the people - Prov 11:30; 1 Cor 9:22
- b. Souls are saved by hearing the gospel, not by being friends – Eph 1:13
- c. Paul is made all things to all men – 1 Cor 9:22, 10:32-33, Rom 14:13
- d. Yet, Paul was offensive - Gal 1:9-10, 5:11, Rom 16:17, 1 Tim 6:5, Titus 3:10
- e. The message is offensive, you don’t need to be – 1 Cor 1:18, 1:23 vs. Rom 9:33
- f. Paul was stoned, whipped, imprisoned for the message, but... – 2 Cor 6:3-8

3. Gaining Men

- a. Not by pursuing their amusements and imitating their sins – Mat 9:11-13
- b. Not by compromising, silencing, or softening the message: Acts 13:46-50, 22:21
- c. You gain men by sacrificing yourself, not the truth – Phil 2:4, 2 Cor 2:17
- d. You gain men by doing what you don’t have to for their sake: Rom 5:8
- e. Paul defers to their weakened understanding: under the law, or not.

4. Paul Amongst Jews and Gentiles

- a. Timothy is circumcised, not for himself, but for a hearing - Acts 16:1-3
- b. Paul takes a vow not for himself but for his brethren: Acts 21:21-24
- c. Under law = Jews, which means Rom 2:17-29, Rom 9-11, Gal 4:21
- d. Without law = Gentiles, which means - Romans 2:14-15, 1 Cor 6:12
- e. The weak = weak not in good behavior, but in knowledge: 1 Cor 8:13, Rom 15:1

5. 9:24-27 – Running for the Prize

- a. There is a point to being saved; it is to minister – 2 Cor 5:18-20, 1 Cor 1:2
- b. We run to win, which means with temperance, focus, and zeal: Gal 5:7, Phil 2:16
- c. The crown is people and their mature operation - Phil 4:1, 1 Ths 2:19, Gal 4:11
- d. We will be rewarded for our service by the Lord – 1 Cor 3:14, 2 Tim 4:8
- e. Keep the message pure, and don’t let yourself get in the way.

Reasons for Good Behavior under Grace

1. Chapter 1 is for the Lord's sake
2. Chapter 2 is because of spiritual maturity
3. Chapter 3 is because of the judgment seat of Christ
4. Chapter 4 is because it exhibits faithfulness
5. Chapter 5 is because it is right and pure
6. Chapter 6 is because they are the members of Christ
7. Chapter 7 is because it prevents trouble
8. Chapter 8 is not to be offensive
9. Chapter 9 is to win souls
10. Chapter 10 is because the law taught it
11. Chapter 11 is to avoid condemnation
12. Chapter 12 is because we are members of each other
13. Chapter 13 is to be charitable
14. Chapter 14 is to be orderly / edifying
15. Chapter 15 is because we have a heavenly hope

“the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world...”

~ Titus 2:11-12