

A SERVANT OF ALL

I CORINTHIANS 9:19-27

KEY WORD: SERVANT

JUNE 11, 2017

1 Corinthians 1:19-27

19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

- 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

OUTLINE

1. For the Sake of the Sinner (vv. 19-23)
2. For Paul's Sake (vv.24-27)

Main idea: **Paul's aim was to glorify God by winning the lost and building up the saints.**

I. FOR THE SAKE OF THE SINNER (VV. 19-23)

19 Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. 20 When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. 21 When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.

- Romans 9:1-3
- I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ **for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.**
- Romans 10:1- Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is **that they may be saved.**

- Romans 9:4-5 - **They are Israelites**, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.
- Ephesians 3:8 - To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, **to preach to the Gentiles** the unsearchable riches of Christ,
- Acts 15:9- and he made **no distinction** between us [Jews] and them [Gentiles], having cleansed their hearts by faith.

- Ephesians 2:11-16

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— 12 remember that you were at that time **separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise**, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by **abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances**, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

2. FOR PAUL'S SAKE (VV. 24-27)

- 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

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- Authority (rights), must be balanced by discipline.
 - “Disqualified” (v. 27) – castaway or disapproved.
 - The whole emphasis is on rewards.
 - **Paul had one great goal in life: to glorify the Lord by winning the lost and building up the saints.**

HOW ABOUT YOU?

- What is your goal in life?
- Are you keeping the future in mind as you live in the present?
- Are you encouraged that discipline and growth is not all dependent on you?
- Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
- **Being a servant to others is not a restrictive drudgery, but a joy and delight that will be for your good and for God's glory!**

