

I Corinthians

(19) From Freedom to Slavery

1 Cor 9:18-27

18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it.

19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. NIV

From freedom to slavery...9:18-23

What was Paul's *personal choice* in preaching the Gospel? 9:18; **II Cor.11:7-9; II Thess.3:8-9**

And what was his *method* of preaching the Gospel? 9:19, 21a; 10:33; Gal.5:13

Did this *method* ever alter the *Gospel message* (for instance, the Jews)? 9:20, 21b; Gal.2:11-14

What about ministering to the weak (*spiritually*)? 9:22; Rom.15:1

And *why* did Paul minister in this way? 9:23; II Tim.2:10; Titus 1:7-9

Why is this *method of ministry* so divisive today? (Sometimes nothing works! See II Tim.4:1-5)

Paul's personal fitness strategy...9:24-27

What object lesson does Paul now give about *motivation* and *training*? 9:24-25a; Heb.12:1

What is the stark contrast between rewards for athletes and believers? 9:25b; IPet.1:4, 5:4

So what response did this truth motivate in Paul? 9:26-27a; Eph.6:12; Col.1:28-29

What was his motivation for this self-discipline? 9:27b; **Lu.12:35-40**

Next: Warning Examples

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From freedom to slavery...9:18-23

What was Paul's *personal choice* in preaching the Gospel? 9:18; **II Cor.11:7-9; II Thess.3:8-9**
To offer the Gospel free of charge, ignoring his 'rights'. Paul's choice, not req'd for others!

And what was his *method* of preaching the Gospel? 9:19, 21a; 10:33; Gal.5:13

He subjected himself to the environment of his audience. To win to Christ everyone.

Did this *method* ever alter the *Gospel message* (for instance, the Jews)? 9:20, 21b; Gal.2:11-14

Never! He became like them, but never of them. Goal is to be non-offensive to win them.

What about ministering to the weak (*spiritually*)? 9:22; Rom.15:1

He became one with them. He did not exalt his strength (spiritually). All to win them!

And *why* did Paul minister in this way? 9:23; II Tim.2:10; Titus 1:7-9

For the sake of the Gospel. He didn't want to 'artificially' hinder the Gospel message.

Why is this *method of ministry* so divisive today? (Sometimes nothing works! See II Tim.4:1-5)

1. Some just don't want change! 2. Sometimes the Gospel is really lost in the 'method'!

Paul's personal fitness strategy...9:24-27

What object lesson does Paul now give about *motivation* and *training*? 9:24-25a; Heb.12:1

Athletes all run but only one wins. You should run to win! This requires strict training!

What is the stark contrast between rewards for athletes and believers? 9:25b; IPet.1:4, 5:4

Athletes get a temporary crown; believers get a crown that lasts forever. Deserves our best

So what response did this truth motivate in Paul? 9:26-27a; Eph.6:12; Col.1:28-29

He subjected his body to his goals, not the usual reverse. This requires real discipline!

What was his motivation for this self-discipline? 9:27b; **Lu.12:35-40**

I (Paul) don't want, after preaching to others, to be disqualified for the prize! Motivation!!

Next: Warning examples