

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 9:1-27

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

EVERY CHRISTIAN - A LIFE

HOW TO BE A CHURCH THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Ministry, Servant hood, Fellowship, Discipleship

It's important at this point to remember just who Paul was. Before his conversion to Christianity, Paul was Saul of Tarsus. A Jew born of the tribe of Benjamin...

Philippians 3:5-7

I was circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; :6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. :7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ... *(that's who he was before meeting Jesus Christ)*

Philippians 3:3-4

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, :4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

His Earthly Citizenship

Acts 22:28

And Paul said, "But I was born a citizen."

It is widely held that the conversion of Saul of tarsus resulted in the single most powerful life-witness for the Gospel in human history. No one man has shaped world culture more than Paul the Apostle...

Even today in the 21st century, Paul's arguments regarding salvation, justification, sanctification and redemption are not only studied for their

theological prose but the way he argued his case has been a model for attorneys as to how to present a successful argument.

But how did that happen? // And can that happen with me?
Should I expect God to be so Big in my Life?

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CHAPTER

An Unlimited Freedom v.1-14

1 Corinthians 9:14

Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

A Controlled Liberty

1 Corinthians 9:16

For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

A Self-Imposed Slavery

1 Corinthians 9:27

But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

EVERY CHRISTIAN – A LIFE

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

1.) God calls His people

v.1-14

1a.) It's a sovereign call of God

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? :2 If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you.

For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. :3 My defense to **those who examine me** is this:

Some Corinthians Had Become Doubtful of Paul's Calling.

His Defense is – Love

My Love for you all has been examined by all

Galatians 1:13-16

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and *tried to* destroy it. :14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. :15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace, :16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE

1b.) It's a deliberate call of God

4 Do we have no **right** to eat and drink? :5 Do we have no **right** to take along a believing wife, as *do* also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?
:6 Or *is it* only Barnabas and I *who* have no right to refrain from working? :7 Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? :8 Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? :9 For it is written in the law of Moses, "*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.*" Is it oxen God is concerned about? :10 Or does He say *it* altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, *this* is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. :11 If we have sown spiritual things for you, *is it* a great thing if we reap your material things?

Acts 9:15-16

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. :16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

1c.) It's a practical call of God

:12 If others are partakers of *this* right over you, *are* we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.
:13 Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat *of the things* of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake *of the offerings* of the altar? :14 Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

EVERY CHRISTIAN – A LIFE

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

2.) God creates His witness

v.15-23

2a.) His witness is the Gospel

:15 But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void. :16 For if I preach **the gospel**, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, **woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!** :17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. :18 What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present **the gospel of Christ** without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel. :19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

Matthew 24:1-4,14

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. :2 And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” :3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” :4 And Jesus answered and said to them.... (one of the great signs of the last days is the global coverage of the gospel message) :14 **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

Remember When Jesus Sent Out His Disciples?

He sent them out - not to heal the environment, not to institute social justice, not even to feed the poor - - but to **PROCLAIM THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL.**

Have You Paused to Think About The Gospel Message?

It's the Message in the World Where Our God comes and lives inside His people – making them His temple

This Reality Must, Will and Does - Come Out of Us

2b.) His witness is the Cross

:20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; **to those who are under the law**, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; **:21 to those who are without law**, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; **:22 to the weak** I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

Whether someone was a Jew, an atheist, a religionist, or an immature Christian, Paul's witness was to point them to the cross of Christ.

There Have Been Many Crosses in History. The Cross was a Common mode for Executions in Ancient Roman Empire.

What The Cross Is Not – It's Not A Good Luck Charm.
The cross is not an Icon or a Relic that has some mystical powers.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Actual Church Growth Method

Acts 2:36-38

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." **:37** Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?" **:38** Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

GOD CREATES HIS WITNESS

2c.) His witness is the Christian

:23 Now **this I do** for the gospel's sake, that I may be a partaker of it **with you**.

Acts 4:12-13

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." **:13** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and **perceived** that they were uneducated and untrained men, they **marveled**. And they **realized** that they had been with Jesus.

The rulers sat stunned. Scripture says, “They **marveled** [admired them]; and they took **knowledge** of them, that they had **been with Jesus**” (4:13). This word **perceived** comes from the root word meaning “**to recognize by some distinguishing mark.**”

What was this mark that distinguished Peter and John? *It was the presence of Jesus. They had Christ’s own likeness and Spirit.*

*They sounded like Jesus. They thought Like Jesus,
They talked like Jesus – And so They **Did Like Jesus!!!***

Christian – You’ve Been Marked out in this life to live for Christ.

2 Timothy 2:19

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “**The Lord knows those who are His,**” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

It is your life that he has given you to shine for him. There is nothing that you have that is not for his glory and all that you have and are, are His and for Him – live like it!

1 John 4:15-17

Whoever **confesses** (*that’s in word and action*) that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. **:16** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. **:17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; **because as He is, so are we in this world.**

EVERY CHRISTIAN – A LIFE

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

3.) God completes His work

v.24-27

**Someday that’s going to be the headlines in the Eternal Times
“God Completes His Work”**

Doctrine: In Eternity –

The Finished Work of Christ is Done. This morning, Jesus Christ is seated at the Right hand of God the Father. **But here and now – in the practical sense, we are to enter into that finished work by faith. Faith is what makes the invisible happen.**

:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. **:25** And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. **:26** Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. **:27** But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

GOD COMPLETES HIS WORK

3a.) An active faith will be contagious

:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. **:25** And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

We are running toward eternity.

Acts 16:25-31

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. **:26** Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. **:27** And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. **:28** But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." **:29** Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. **:30** And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" **:31** So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,

This Isn't Normal Boldness People – But Why?

Romans 8:27-31

Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. **:28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. **:29** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **:30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. **:31** What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

GOD COMPLETES HIS WORK

3b.) A grounded faith will be obvious

:26b Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air.

Philippians 3:8-10

Indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ :9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; :10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, **being conformed** to His death,

Our weakness become our strength

3c.) A mature faith will be victorious

:27 But I **discipline** my body and bring *it* into **subjection**, lest, when I have **preached** to others, I myself should become **disqualified**.

You and I are to have complete confidence in God – He is faithful! Yet in myself, there is to be no confidence. I must be on guard against this world, the devil and most importantly - my flesh.

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” :55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” :56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. :57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. :58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

_____ *End of Study* _____

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