



1 Corinthians 9:1-2

1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? **2** If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Paul opens by defending his being an apostle. On what does he ground his defense?

*What is Paul referring to when he says he has seen Jesus? **Read Acts 9:1-19** to learn of when Saul/Paul met Jesus.*

Why does Paul say, "at least to you" he is an apostle? What proof is he pointing to?

1 Corinthians 9:3-12a

3 This is my defense to those who would examine me. **4** Do we not have the right to eat and drink? **5** Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? **6** Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? **7** Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

8 Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? **9** For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned?

10 Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. **11** If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? **12** If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

Which of his rights is Paul defending? How does he argue for it?

Do you think it is a good thing for preachers to support themselves financially by means of another job, or is it better to be supported by a church? Are there pros and cons for each view?

1 Corinthians 9:12b-18

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. **13** Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? **14** In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

15 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. **16** For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! **17** For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. **18** What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

*In the preceding verses Paul lays out an argument for why it is his right to be paid, yet he says that he has "not made use of this right." Look back one chapter in 1 Corinthians for another example of sacrificing your right. What is the situation in **1 Corinthians 8**?*

What is a reason laid out here as to why he would lay aside his right to collect a wage?

What does it mean that preaching the gospel is a "necessity" to Paul? Do we feel a conviction that there is a necessity to do what we are called to do?

Philippians 2:12-18

12 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.

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, **15** that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16** holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. **17** Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. **18** Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

In 1 Corinthians we have heard Paul deride boasting and pride in several occasions, but he uses it positively in chapter 8. What sort of boasting can be good? What is a source of pride in Philippians 2?

How can you apply these Scriptures to your life?