

“By All Means!”
1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Introduction:

1. Let's Head Back To 1 Corinthians 9 This Morning!
 - Last Time - When We Were In This Chapter:
 - We Looked At & Learned About:
 - What It Takes In Order To Make Proclaiming / Sharing The Gospel A Priority In Our Lives!
 - Like It Was Paul's Priority!
 - Remember - Paul Was Even Willing To Give Up Some Of His Christian Freedom / Liberty In Order To Do So!
 - What Does It Take?
 - Proclaiming / Sharing The Gospel With Others:
 - Has A Price! And Needs A Passion!
 - This Is What Paul Had!
 - This Is What We Need! In Order To Be More Effective In Telling Others About Jesus Christ!
 2. In 9:19-23 - Paul Continues Looking At:
 - The Priority Of Telling Others About Jesus!
 - Sharing The Gospel With Anyone & Everyone Possible!
 - Question - To What Extent Are We Willing To Go In Order To Bring The Gospel To Others?
 - Read 9:19-23!
 - How Far Are You Willing To Go?
 - To Share The Gospel With Others?
 - Or - A Better Question In Light Of What We Just Read Is:
 - How Much Of A Price Are You Willing To Pay?
 - How Much Service Are You Willing To Give, No Matter What The Cost Is To You, In Order To Win Others To Jesus Christ?
 3. In These 5 Verses:
 - We Have Just Seen Paul's Method & Model Of Ministry!
 - This Describes How Paul Brought The Gospel To So Many People With So Many Differences & Backgrounds!
 - Really - Just One Phrase In 9:22 Sums Up His Method Of Getting The Gospel To Others:
 - “By All Means!” / “By Any & All Means!”
 - **IE:** If One Of Our Members Was A Medical Researcher & Scientist:
 - And Discovered A Reliable Method To Treat & Completely Heal Cancer - What Would We Do With That Treatment? Keep It To Ourselves? Of Course Not! If We Truly Believed In Our Cure & Loved Others Who Have Cancer - We Would Get The Treatment To Them: “By Any & All Means” That We Could!
 - So It Is With The Gospel!
 - We Have A Message Of Spiritual Healing!
 - And Of Forgiveness Of Sins - Through The Simple Act Of Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - His Life / His Death / His Resurrection!
 - All For The Sins Of Mankind!
 - And Now - Those Who Have Received Jesus Christ As Their Personal Savior From Sin:
 - Have The Great Privilege To Share This Message With As Many People As We Can!
 - This Is Our Greatest Ministry!
 - As Christians & As A Church!
 - So - What Should Be Our Method Of Ministry?
 - And Our Model Of Getting The Gospel To Others?
 - This Life-Saving Cure Of People's Souls?
 - “By All Means!” / “By All Means!”
 4. This Morning - We Are Going To Look More Closely At:
 - The Christians Method Of Ministry!
 - How Far Are You Willing To Serve, In Order To Bring The Message Of The Gospel To Others?
- 1. We Are To Serve – By All Means!**
- In 9:19 - We Find The Call To Our Method Of Ministry!
 - Of How We Are To Share The Gospel With Others!

- “For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more!”
 - Need To Keep This In Mind - Sharing The Gospel With Others Is All About Serving Others!
 - To Share Means To Serve!
 - And This Whole Passage Deals With Service! Not To Benefit Yourself / But To Benefit Others! Not For Personal Profit & Pleasure / But For The Profit & Pleasure Of Others!
- A Call To Sacrifice!
 - “For Though I Be Free From All Men!”
 - Remember - Paul Had Great Freedom / Liberty In Christ!
 - He Was In Bondage To Noone, Except To The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - 7:22 - “For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord’s freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ’s servant!”
 - There Was Nothing / Noone Restricting Him From:
 - Serving The Lord & Sharing The Gospel!
 - Yet - Paul Was Also Free To Limit His Liberty:
 - For The Blessing & Benefit Of Others Through The Gospel!
 - And This He Did Willingly!
 - Paul’s Method Of Ministry Was All About Sacrifice!
 - And Ours Must Be Too!
- A Call To Service!
 - “Yet Have I Made Myself Servant Unto All!”
 - Instead Of “Fighting For His Rights”:
 - Paul Made Himself A Servant / A Slave To As Many As He Could - In Order To Bring The Gospel To Them!
 - He Became Their Slave / So That They Could Become Free!
 - Paul’s Method Of Ministry Was All About Service!
 - And Ours Must Be Too!
- A Call To Save!
 - Why Would Paul Give Up So Much For So Many?
 - “That I Might Gain The More!”
 - This Was His Goal / Aim!
 - To “Gain” Others For The Lord!
 - To “Gain” Here Means:
 - To Win Others To Jesus Christ!
 - Paul Was A Great Soul-Winner - Understanding The Truth In Proverbs 11:30 - “He that winneth souls is wise!”
 - Paul’s Method Of Ministry Was All About Saving Others!
 - And Ours Must Be Too!
- Remember This Call To Ministry As We Look At The Next Verses!
 - It Is All About Service!
 - And To Serve “By All Means!”
 - And Those Means Includes Sacrifice & Self-Denial!
 - Paul Was Basically Following After The Method Of Jesus’ Own Ministry!
 - Philippians 2:7-8 - “But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: / And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross!”
 - It Is All About Serving Others!

2. ***We Are To Share – By All Means!***

- In 9:20-22 - We Find The Care For Our Method Of Ministry!
 - Where We See That The Message Of The Gospel Is For Everyone!
 - “And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; / To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. / To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak!”
 - Here, Paul Explains In Great Detail How He Would Serve Others, In Order To Win Them To Jesus Christ! He Cared For Everyone! Four Groups Mentioned! And He Was Willing To Serve Each & Every One! So Must We!

- We Are To Share The Gospel With Everyone:
 - No Matter What:
- Their Country!
 - Paul First Refers To The Jew!
 - Those Who Were Of His Own Nationality & Heritage!
 - Paul Loved The Jews & Longed For The Jews To Be Saved!
 - Romans 9:2-3 - "That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. / For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh!"
 - How Would He Win Them To Christ?
 - "By All Means!"
 - 9:20 - "And Unto The Jews I Became As A Jew, That I Might Gain The Jews!"
 - This Means - That He Did Nothing Personally To Offend Them & Distract Them From The Message Of The Gospel!
 - Example:
 - In Acts 16:3 - When Paul Brought Young Timothy To Help Him With His Ministry - "Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek!"
 - Both Paul & Timothy Were Free From The Jewish Life & Way Of Doing Things - Circumcision Meant Nothing To Them - But It Did Mean A Lot To The Jews - And So, In Order To Not Offend & In Order To Get Closer To The Jews - Timothy Was Circum.
 - We Are To Share The Gospel With Everyone!
 - No Matter: What Their Country!
- What Their Customs!
 - Second - Paul Refers To The Jews In A Different Way!
 - As Those Who Were "Under The Law!"
 - What Law? The Law Of Moses!
 - Specifically - The Civil & Ceremonial Law!
 - The Sacrifices / The Purifications / Etc!
 - Paul Was Personally Free From These Religious Observances / Practices!
 - How Would He Win Them To Christ?
 - "By All Means!"
 - 9:20 - "To Them That Are Under The Law, As Under The Law, That I Might Gain Them That Are Under The Law!"
 - This Means - That He Did Nothing Personally To Offend Them & Distract Them From The Message Of The Gospel!
 - Example:
 - In Acts 18:18 - After His First Visit To Corinth - Talks Of Paul - "Having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow!"
 - This Was One Of The Ceremonies Of Those Under Jewish Law!
 - Wasn't Paul Free From This? Why Would He Do This?
 - Answer - "That I Might Gain Them That Are Under The Law!"
 - Paul Was Going To Live According To Those Same Laws, So Long As They Did Not Break God's Law! He Wanted Nothing In His Personal Life To Hinder The Work & Message Of The Gospel!
 - And This Act / Method Of Ministry Helped Him Serve The Jews Better!
 - What About Today?
 - If You Went To Live With Jews / Muslims / Hindus / People With Customs Like - Not Eating A Particular Kind Of Meat!
 - What Would Be A Better Way To Serve / Share The Gospel With Them?
 - To Willingly Give Up Your "Freedom" To Eat Pork / Beef / Etc - To Not Offend - To Get Closer - To Share The Gospel!
 - We Are To Share The Gospel With Everyone!
 - No Matter: What Their Country / Customs!
- What Their Culture!
 - Third - Paul Refers To The Gentiles!
 - As Those "Without Law!"
 - Those Who Did Not Know About / Were Not Under The Laws Of Moses / Still Under The Moral Law Of God, However!

- These People Were Not Irreligious!
 - No - Often Quite Religious - Just Different Heathen Culture!
- How Would He Win Them To Christ?
 - “By All Means!”
 - 9:21 - “To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law!”
 - Paul Understood Them & How They Thought!
 - How They Believed / Behaved / Talked!
 - Paul Would Make the Gospel Understandable To Them!
 - Not By Watering The Message Down, But By Explaining The Truth In Terms They Could Understand!
- Example:
 - In Acts 17 - In Athens - He Went To Mars Hill, Where The People Were Known To Debate & Desire To “Hear Some New Thing!” And He Used Some Things In Their Own Culture In Order To Explain The Message Of The Gospel Clearly!
 - He Wanted Nothing To Confuse The Truth That He Was Sharing With Them!
- James Hudson Taylor:
 - Was A Missionary To China - Who Learned This Lesson & Method Of Ministry For Himself!
 - In The 1800's - As An Englishman In China - Wherever He Would Go - People Were Drawn To See & Hear Him - His Strange Skin / Clothes / Hat / Speech! Decided To Become As Chinese As He Could - Same Hair / Clothes / Food / Language! Discovered That Now People Were Drawn To The Message Instead Of The Messenger! Thousands Were Won To Jesus Christ!
- We Are To Share The Gospel With Everyone!
 - No Matter: What Their Country / Customs / Culture
- What Their Concerns!
 - Fourth - Paul Refers To Those Who Have Needs!
 - He Refers To Them As “The Weak!”
 - Many Believe “The Weak” Here Are The Same As “The Weak” In Chapter 8:
 - Those Christians Who Had A Weaker Conscience! Still Struggled With Some Things That Were Part Of Their Christian Liberty!
 - I Believe “The Weak” Here Must Refer To Those Who Have Great Needs / Concerns In This World!
 - Because Paul’s Goal Is To “Gain” Them & Win Them To Jesus Christ!
 - Those Who Are “Weak” In Their Bodies / In Their Possessions / In Their Spirits / In Their Souls!
- How Would He Win Them To Christ?
 - “By All Means!”
 - 9:22 - “To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak!”
- Of Course - Paul Does Not Mean That In All Cases He Actually Became Weak / Even Sick Like Them!
 - But He Came To Them As One Of Them!
 - He Went To Where The Weak Were!
 - The Hospitals / The Prisons / The Poor-Houses!
 - In Love / Kindness / Helpfulness / Service!
 - Not Showing His Position / Power / Prestige / Possessions!
- As Jesus Told The Disciples Of John:
 - In Matthew 11:3-6 - “And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? / Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: / The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. / And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me!”
 - Jesus Went to Where The Weak Were!
 - To Heal Them - Physically / Spiritually!
- This Is To Be The Method Of Our Ministry!
 - We Are To Share The Gospel With Everyone!
 - No Matter: What Their Country / Customs / Culture / Concerns!
 - “If truth offends people, we cannot help it. But in matters of ceremony, and dress, and habits, and customs, and forms, we should be willing to conform to them, as far as can be done, and for the sole purpose of saving their souls!” (Barnes)

3. ***We Are To Submit – By All Means!***

- Back In 9:21 - We Find Some Caution About Our Ministry!
 - “To them that are without law, as without law, being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ!”
 - So Many Want Take Paul’s Example The Wrong Way!
 - Instead Of Changing Methods, They Change The Message! Or Instead Of Focusing On Profit Of Others, On Self!
 - We Need To Realize That We Must Still Submit To The Lord & His Word & His Will!
 - Even When / Especially When Sharing The Gospel With Others!
- Always Submitting To God’s Law!
 - “Being Not Without Law To God!”
 - Paul Says - We Do Still Have A Law To Follow!
 - God’s Moral Law!
 - Our Methods Must Never Break God’s Commands!
 - Example - A Christian Dating An Unbeliever - Thinking They Can Win Them To Christ
 - But Still Disobeying God’s Word - “Be Not Unequally Yoked!”
 - To “Be All Things To All Men” Never Means:
 - Condoning Sin!
 - Conforming To Sin / Sinful Things!
 - Compromise Of The Truth!
- Always Submitting To Christ’s Love!
 - “But Under The Law To Christ!”
 - Jesus Has Given Us An Even Greater Law To Operate Under - The Law Of Love!
 - Love First Of All To The Lord!
 - Keeping Us In Truth / Right!
 - Love Second Of All To Others!
 - To “Be All Things To All Men” Is All About:
 - Thoughtfulness!
 - Thinking / Planning Better Ways To Reach People For Christ! Methods Not Message!
 - Tactfulness! Kindness / Love / Service!
 - Time! Spending Time With Others! Not Drive-By!
 - Most Of All - Truth! It Is Christ Who Sets Men Free!

4. ***We Are To Save – By All Means!***

- In 9:22-23 - We See The Cause Of Our Ministry!
 - 9:22b-23 - “I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. / And this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you!”
- What Is Our Plan?
 - 9:22b - Sums Up Everything Paul Just Said About His Method Of Ministry!
 - “I Am Made All Things To All Men, That I Might By All Means Save Some!”
 - To Get Close To Others In Order To Win Them To Jesus Christ!
 - Alexander MacLaren - “We Must Get Near People If We Would Help Them!”
 - The Best Way To Do This Is To Sacrifice & To Serve!
- What Is Our Purpose?
 - 9:23 - “And This I Do For The Gospel’s Sake, That I Might Be Partaker Thereof With You!”
 - Why Would Paul Serve / Sacrifice / Submit:
 - To So Man & In So Many Ways?
 - Because Of The Gospel!
 - The Good Message / News Of Jesus Christ!
 - “That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners!” (1 Timothy 1:15)

Conclusion:

1. The Gospel Is Our Lifeline!
 - And There Are So Many People Who Need To Be Rescued / Saved!
 - So - We Need To “Throw Out The Lifeline!”
 - To Any & All That We Can!
 - “By All Means!” - That Will Help Us Get Closer & Closer To Them, Without Getting Farther & Farther Away From The One Who Will Save Them!
2. Paul’s Method For Ministry:

- Was Essentially To Keep Himself From Getting In The Way Of The Gospel - By Focusing On Serving Others!
- 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 - “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. / Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: / Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved!”
- How Far Are You Willing To Serve, In Order To Bring The Message Of The Gospel To Others?

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