

Refusing to use your liberty for the Liberating Gospel 1 Cor 9: 23-24 (Pt 2)

- Paul's entire ministry could be summed up by the words in 1 Cor 9:19

“I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them”

- No one understood the importance of Christian liberty more than Paul did
- Yet Paul was gladly willing to give up his freedoms for the sake of the Gospel
- God had set Paul apart to serve one main purpose: to proclaim the Gospel
- Face of liberty in love: it chose to forego its rights for the salvation of others
- He explained his reasons for forgoing his liberty so that he might win more
- Now he shows how he exercises self control so that he could reach the lost.

I. Paul Sets Before Us A Challenge (9:24-26a)

- Liberty cannot be restricted without self-control: sinfulness resents restrictions
 - True freedom is governed by sacrificial love produced by the Holy Spirit in us
 - Paul understood this means we must turn away from self & lay hold of Christ
- a) *I run to win the race* (vv.24-25)
- We don't compete against each other, but against ourselves – remaining sin
 - Run, by setting aside anything that would hinder the reception of the Gospel
 - Many hindered their testimony for the Gospel for loved of their liberty
 - Our prize is not a fading wreath but eternal glory & souls that live forever

• II. Paul Sets Before Us A Concern (9:26b-27)

- **What he does:** He keeps his body in submission by beating it like an athlete

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

- **Why he does it:** He does not want sin to creep in and disqualify him

v. 27 lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified