the book of 1st Corinthians

Thursday Morning Bible Class

1 Corinthians 9:1-10:22

1

A Free Apostle – 9:1-2

- The subject of Chapter 8 has been eating idol-meat. Ch. 9 seems to interrupt this, but it is linked. As an example of putting others first, he is willing to give up his apostolic privileges for the sake of others. By renouncing his privileges, he emphasizes that salvation is a free gift.

2

A Free Apostle – 9:1-2

- 1 – Paul asks 4 rhetorical questions
  - 1) Am I not free?
  - 2) Am I not an apostle?
  - 3) Did I not see Jesus?
  - 4) Did I not start their church?

  Paul reminds them that he is their father in Christ.

3

His Right to be Supported – 9:3-14

- 3 – Paul seems to be under attack on his claim to apostleship. So he defends his authority.
- 4-5 – As an apostle he has the right to be supported.
- 6 – Paul & Barnabas supported themselves.
- 7 – Three rhetorical questions to remind the church that it is proper for a laborer to receive support.

4

His Right to be Supported – 9:3-14

- 8 – He turns to the OT for support.
- 9 – Deut 25:4 While the oxen worked they were permitted to eat some of the grain. Workers have the right to be paid for their services.
- 10 – From the lesser to the greater: if this is true for oxen, how much more for people?

5

His Right to be Supported – 9:3-14

- 11 – If they had sown spiritual seed among them, is it too much to expect some material benefit?
- 12 – Paul is within his right for them to support him, but he does not exercise that right so that no one can say he is only in it for the money.

6

His Right to be Supported – 9:3-14

- 13-14 – Two more examples: Those who serve in the temple get their food from offerings.
- So today: Paul's words suggest that ministers have the right to be supported.
- But it is also a warning against church workers who might think of ministry as a for-profit enterprise.

7

Paul Forgoes His Right – 9:15-18

- 15 - Although Paul can claim their support, he never makes use of this right.
- 16 – He does not preach for his own gain. He must preach!
- 17 – His is the role of a slave, doing what is demanded of him.
- 18 – What is his reward? Knowing that the Gospel is proclaimed without charge.

8

All Things to All People – 9:19-23

- 19 – He has rights. He is free in the Gospel, yet he becomes a slave to all for the sake of the Gospel.
- 20 – to Jews he acted like a Jew so as to not offend them, but to win them.
- 21 – To the Gentile he would not insist on Jewish laws.
- 22-23 – To the weak he will be like them.

9

Self-discipline – 9:24-27

- 24 – Paul encourages all of them to practice self-denial. Do not lapse into false security, but strive to live the Christian life.
- 25 – Like athletes who train, so be disciplined.
- 26 – He strives for a goal.
- 27 – He seeks to subdue his sinful nature so that he does not lose out on the blessings of the Gospel.

10

Our Fathers – 10:1-5

- 1 – He turns to the OT for instruction. All Israel received God's grace in the Exodus. All were under the "cloud" (God's presence) and passed through the Sea.
- 2 – Like a baptism – they were all "baptized" into Moses and followed him.

11

Our Fathers – 10:1-5

- 3 – Just as the fathers of Israel received a type of baptism, they also received a type of the Lord's supper. All were sustained by the manna.
- 4 – God provided them water from the rock which was Christ.
- 5 – "But!" – Most failed to reach the Promised Land.

12

Events for Our Instruction – 10:6-13

- 6 – Using OT illustrations, Paul shows why Israelites were cut off. The first – the people wanted what they had in Egypt.
- 7 – The Golden Calf incident. (Ex. 32:6)
- 8 – Baal worship with Moab – Num. 25:1-9
- 9 – God sent snakes on the complainers (Num. 21:4-6)

13

Events for Our Instruction – 10:6-13

- 11 – Repeats v. 6 – All serve as instruction against the danger of idolatry.
- 12 – Therefore, be on guard. Don't be complacent or arrogant.
- 13 – They are not special. They will all suffer trials and temptations. But God will give the ability to endure.

14

The Lord's Table – 10:14-22

- 14-15 – Stay away from idols! Worshiping an idol is the same as worshiping the devil.
- 16 – The "cup of blessing" – The Passover cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper.
- "That we bless" – marks it as distinctive.
- A "communion" (*koinonia*) with the Body of Christ.

15

The Lord's Table – 10:14-22

- 16 – In the cup and bread we come into direct communion with the body of Christ.
- So in idolatrous feasts the person is worshping an idol.
- 17 – In the Sacrament we become one body with Jesus and with one another. To participate in idol feasts destroys that unity!

16

The Lord's Table – 10:14-22

- 18 – Another analogy – Priests consumed portions of sacrificial animals.
- 29-20 – Yes, idols are nothing, but when they participate in their feasts they commune with demons.
- 21 – To drink of the cup of the Lord is to worship him. You cannot combine that with demons.

17

The Lord's Table – 10:14-22

- 22 – God is a jealous God. He does not want to share us with demons! He wants our total devotion. Mere human beings cannot contend with the Almighty God!

18