

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 9:19-23**.  
For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more. 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, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some. And I do all things for the sake of the gospel, that I may become a fellow partaker of it.
- B. Paul was an evangelist. He wanted as many as would hear and obey to become Xians.
- C. In carrying out the Great Commission, Paul makes the statement that he has become all things to all people. Paul did whatever he could, short of sinning, to win souls.
- D. This morning we look at some particulars about 1Cor. 9:19-23.

## I. THE FREEDOM OF THE GOSPEL FREES US FROM THE TYRANNY OF MEN.

- A. *The restoration plea takes us away from creeds* (1Cor. 9:19).  
For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more.
- B. Jesus said that the truth **will make us free** (Jn. 8:32).  
“...and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
- C. Jesus also said that the traditions of men make void the gospel (Mt. 15:3).  
And He answered and said to them, “And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?”
- D. The conclusion is that true freedom from all sinful things is to believe and obey the gospel.
- E. We need not be held by the traditions of men, when we have the gospel that sets us free.

## II. THOSE UNDER THE LAW NEED TO SEE HOW THE LAW IS FULFILLED IN X.

- A. *Denominational people* (1Cor. 9:20).  
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 though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law;
- B. The apostle Paul in no way considered himself bound by the Law of Moses.
- C. But many of the Jews still did, and Paul needed to teach them more perfectly.
- D. The best way to do this was not to “war” with them, but to show how the Law was fulfilled in X. The logical outcome of following the Law **is to become a Xian**.
- E. The following scriptures show this; Rom. 10:4; Gal. 3:24; Heb. 8:6,7; 1Cor. 1:22,23.  
(**Rom 10:4**) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.  
(**Gal 3:24**) Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.  
(**Heb 8:6-7**) But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.  
(**1Cor 1:22-23**) For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness,...

## III. THOSE WITHOUT THE LAW ALSO NEED X AND THE LAW OF CHRIST.

- A. *The unchurched* (1Cor. 9:21).  
...to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law.
- B. The Gentiles did not have the law of Moses, but did have natural revelation to know there is a God (Rom. 1:18-20, 22).  
For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and

divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse... **22** Professing to be wise, they became fools,...

- C. They needed X just as much as the Jews did, and needed to be under His covenant (Ac. 10:2; Jn. 10:16).

(Ac 10:2) ...a devout man, and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people, and prayed to God continually.

(Jn 10:16) "And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd."

#### IV. SOME IN THE CHURCH NEEDED TO BE TAUGHT--THEY WERE WEAK.

- A. *Weak Christians* (1Cor. 9:22).

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.

- B. The first two groups mentioned by Paul are about those not Xians (Jews and Greeks).

- C. This group involves what Paul was doing with weak Xians so that they would not fall away.

- D. Weaker brethren did not understand some things about eating meat sacrificed to idols. When they saw some Xians doing it they thought it was sinful, but it was not (Rom. 14:13-15; see 1Cor. 8:13).

Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

#### V. SACRIFICING SO THAT OTHERS MAY SHARE IN THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

- A. *Service to others means personal spiritual growth* (1Cor. 9:23).

And I do all things for the sake of the gospel, that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

- B. Paul did not sacrifice those things he knew to be right. He did sacrifice, however, when he could, **so that others would come to know the gospel.**

- C. Today, in being all things to all people, we must understand others in their different backgrounds, social status, age, education, etc., so that we might choose the most effective way to share the gospel with them.

- D. Some people today are very religious "after a fashion," some are not religious at all, some are fallen away Xians who are very weak in faith. Different approaches are needed in each case to win them to X.

#### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. See 1Cor. 9:26-27.

Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

- B. Paul does not work without purpose, direction, or cause.

- C. He worked hard at not making his efforts go on in vain.

- D. He wanted to make sure that nothing he did would cause anyone to not believe.

- E. No matter what the problem, background, or situation; JC has the answers for your life.

- F. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.