

I Corinthians 9 – Paul’s Defense of His Apostleship

1. Paul’s Defense – v.1-14

False teacher came in after his visit, claimed he wasn’t an apostle, hadn’t seen Jesus, and refused payment because he knew he was an imposter.

Defense – KJV ‘apologia’ – lit. ‘a verbal defense’

- 1 Apostleship – he had seen Jesus
Seal vouches the validity of a document
If Paul wasn’t an apostle, the Corinthians weren’t Christians
- 2 Celibacy – had choice to marry
Sister denoting a Christian
- 3 Right (power) to receive financial support – “authority/right”
Power – 6x 4, 5, 6, 12, 18
- 4 Right to food and water
- 6 Right to refrain from working and be supported
Apostle – Apostolos – one sent under a mission
- 7 Right to wages while in army, like a soldier
Right to fruit of the vine, like the vinedresser
Right to drink the milk, like the farmer
- 8-10 Law of Moses provided wages for priests
- 11-12 Law of Sowing and Reaping in Paul’s favor
- 13 Priests shared in the sacrificial offerings (Num. 8:8-13, Deut. 13:1)
- 14 Jesus taught that preachers should be able to live by the Gospel

2 Why Paul Didn’t Exercise His Rights – v. 15-23

- 15 (1) Not wanting them to misunderstand
- 16-18 (2) Compelled to preach – not boasting
- 18-23 (3) Four reasons for financial support
 - (a) 18 Preach free of charge
 - (b) 18 Not abuse his authority of an apostle
 - (c) 19-22 Save more people
 - a. Practiced what he preached

b. See 8:13

(d) Might share with the Corinthians the blessings of Preaching the Gospel

3 Paul Had A Purpose to His Life – v. 24-27

Illustrates with athletes

Athletes are characterized by purpose

26 Did not run with uncertainty or aimlessness

26 Did not shadowbox or miss

27 Continually disciplined his body

Athletes practice temperance or self-control in training.

Christian's goal is eternal life – requires temperance too!

Point: He did have a purpose to preaching without pay.

*David Powell notes.

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