



# Study Guide

## 1 Corinthians 9

November 20 & 21, 2021

1. What have been your biggest take aways so far from this study of the first letter to the Corinthians? Are there any specific challenges that surprise you or feel particularly relevant? What about Paul's responses? Has anything stood out to you?

### READ 1 Corinthians 9

2. Can you think of a time in your life when you experienced a new level of freedom? What did it mean to you?
3. Paul talks about his freedoms as an apostle. As we discussed this weekend, he is not one of the first twelve apostles, but he is an apostle. After reading **verses 1-6**, why does Paul feel he has the right to be viewed as an apostle and what does he say is his proof?

What freedoms does he say he and Barnabas are not being afforded?

4. **Read verses 7-12.** In a simple statement, simplify Paul's logic as to why he should be given the rewards and freedoms of an apostle.

5. The second half of **verse 12** says, "**BUT** we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ." What hindrance can you think of that might occur if Paul were to demand his rights?

6. **Read verse 19-23.** All of us have people we connect with and skills we can use to minister. Paul says we are even rewarded for it! In what areas in the church do you serve? Do you have a group or a person that you are ministering to outside of the church (people at work, family, hobbies, school, etc.)?

7. Do you realize that there is a reward for what you do? <sup>23</sup> *I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.* What do you think those blessings are?

8. **Read verses 24-27.** Paul understood the discipline, focus, and purpose that was on his life to work for God the way he did. What does this look like for you?

How can we intentionally "run the race" to get the prize? What is that prize?

**Finally, close in prayer.** Ask the Holy Spirit to show each of you where He has called you to run the race (serve). If you are currently serving ... thank you! Pray for strength for those who may be tired or unsure of the value of what they do in service to Christ through His church to both Christians in the church and the community at large. Pray for effectiveness in ministry that we "might win some".