

I Corinthians 9:1-14

Making a Living from the Gospel

Introduction:

There are today many wholesome ministries to give your support to. Primarily our support should go to the local organized church. One of the vows of church membership is , “to give to the Lord’s work as He shall prosper you.” This is rather a general statement referencing tithes, offerings and alms.

The giving of our money to various ministries outside the local church has in our day been greatly abused by promises of miracles, fortunes and healings. This brings great disgrace on the gospel ministry.

In this context the apostle Paul points out the necessity of gospel ministers to be supported and cared for as other occupations are supported and cared for. Paul’s personal position and choice is not to receive wages so that the ministry of the gospel may not be hindered in any way by some of his major critics.

I. Supporting the Rights of Apostleship – v.1-6

A. Four questions that expect the answer, “Yes”

B. Qualification for apostleship – To have been commissioned and seen by the resurrected Lord Jesus. (Acts 22:14; 26:16 cf. Acts 1:21-22; 2:32; 3:15; 4:33)

1. Evidence of apostleship – Spiritual growth – I Cor. 3:5-7
2. Doubters – v.2
3. Defense – v.3
4. The right to marry – v.5

C. Barnabas, Paul’s fellow-servant –v.6; II Tim. 4:11

II. Supporting the Gospel Ministry – v.7-14

A. Three human life illustrations:

- a. Soldier –
- b. Vineyard Planter – Deut. 20:6
- c. Shepherd – Deut. 25:14; I Tim. 5:17-18; II Sam. 24:22-24

B. Sowing Spiritual Things – v.11; Turn To: Ephesians 4:11-16

C. The Old Testament Theology:

1. The history of worship
2. The priestly sacrifices
3. The priestly support – Lev. 7:5,6; 8-10

D. The Bottom Line – v. 14

1. The words of Jesus – Matt. 10:10
2. The words of Paul – Gal. 6:6

Conclusion:

1. *My appreciation of faithful giving of the people of God for the gospel ministry.*
2. *Keep up the good work. “Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.” Gal. 6:9*

