

October 29, 2023

## Run to Win 1 Corinthians 9 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 13 Num. 44

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



As we continue through the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians this week we will be looking at Chapter 9. Chapter 9 starts of talking about Paul's work in the gospel. He quotes the Old Testament and makes the point that each worker is due his wage. The second part of the chapter Paul talks about being all things to all people. Paul clearly makes sharing the gospel his priority. He is willing to do whatever it takes to win people for Christ. Join us this week as we talk about the tension between being all things to all people and always honoring Christ.

Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one.

**1 Corinthians 9:25**

DailyVerses.net

### Paul's Use of Liberty

**9** Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? **2** If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

**3** My defense to those who examine me is this: **4** Do we not have a right to eat and drink? **5** Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? **6** Or do only Barnabas and I not have a right to refrain from working? **7** Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock?

**8** I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things? **9** For it is written in the Law of Moses, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING." God is not concerned about oxen, is He? **10** Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher *to thresh* in hope of sharing *the crops*. **11** If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? **12** If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ. **13** Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the *food* of the temple, *and* those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? **14** So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

**15** But I have used none of these things. And I am not writing these things so that it will be done so in my case; for it would be better for me to die than have any man make my boast an empty one. **16** For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. **17** For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. **18** What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

**19** For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. **20** To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; **21** to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. **22** To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. **23** I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

**24** Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. **25** Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. **26** Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; **27** but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.**

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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**2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
What does God MEAN?

1. Why does Paul ask if he has the right to eat and drink in verse 4?
2. What correlation does Paul make between himself and a soldier and a farmer? (4-7)
3. What does it mean to not muzzle the ox while he is threshing?
4. In verse 19 why does Paul say he has made himself a slave to all?
5. What law does Paul say he is under? Explain what this is.
6. Why does Paul say he is all things to all men?
7. How does Paul run the race in order to win?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)  
Why does this **MATTER** to me?

8. How can we be all things to all people and still honor Christ?

9. What are some examples of times when it is hard to honor Christ and be all things to people?

10. What is the main point of section 1-18?

11. What is the main point of section 19-27?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

**Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...**

*Sermon Notes*