

## Financial Support of Spiritual Workers

### Lesson 17

1 Corinthians 9:1-18

Sunday July 1, 2018

As we study chapter 9:1-18, it seems as though Paul is changing his thought and entering into a separate and unrelated discussion to the context of chapter 8. The subject of chapter 9, however, ties back to the principle taught in chapter 8 dealing with eating meats sacrificed to idols (read 8:13 as a reminder). In this lesson, we see Paul exemplifying the principle that he would not take advantage of certain liberties IF it causes others to sin (which will be studied in deeper detail in lesson 18). For our purposes in this lesson, we will concentrate on the discussion around supporting preachers financially.

1. What points did Paul make about himself in his defense of his apostleship (verses 1-2)? Why, do you suppose, he addressed this issue here?
2. Paul expands his defense and deals directly with the issue of supporting those who preach the gospel (verses 4-14). How does he begin his argument in verses 5-6?
3. To establish the reason why he didn't take advantage of the right to financial support, Paul had to first convince the Corinthians that he did have the right. What reasons did Paul give supporting his argument (verses 7-14)? *Notice that examples given in verse 7 seem to be different than the others that follow.*
4. For what purposes are preachers to receive support? See 1 Cor 9:4-5; Phil. 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 11:8-9 (see also 1 Thess. 2:9 and 2 Thess. 3:8).
5. A) Did Paul accept financial support from other churches? See Philippians 4:15-18; 2 Cor 11:9.  
B) Explain why Paul did not receive support from Corinth – was it because they refused to give it or because he refused to accept it (or both). (see 1 Cor. 9:12,15 & 18; 2 Cor. 11:7-9; 2 Cor. 12: 13-14).
6. What reasons should / do we provide financial support to those who preach the gospel (consider Phil. 4:15-18, 1 Cor 9:14, Luke 10:7)?