

L87 | I Corinthians | The Beast of Burden | I Cor. 9:1-14

I. Intro/Review:

- Paul's apostleship
 - Corinthians seal of this apostleship
- Paul not using his power/liberty for their sake

II. Preview:

- Examples of what God ordained

III. Sermon:

{1 Corinthians 9:7-10} Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

- Examples of the use of this power
 - "who?"
 - **"who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges?"**
 - The Soldier
 - Luke 3:14 - "...soldiers...and be content with your wages."
 - 2 Tim. 2:3-4 - "hardness..."
 - 2 Cor. 10:4 - "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,..."
 - 1 Tim. 1:18 - "that thou by them mightest ware a good warfare;"
 - From within and without
 - 2 Cor. 11:28 - "beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches."
 - **"who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof?"**
 - The Husbandman
 - John 15:1 - "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman."
 - 2 Tim. 2:6 - "The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits."
 - Jas. 5:7 - "...Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruih of the earth,"
 - **"or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?"**

- The Shepherd
 - Acts 20:28-29 - "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock...wolves...not sparing the flock."
 - Heb. 13:17 - "rule over you...for they watch for your souls"
 - 1 Pet. 5:2-3 - "Feed the flock of God...ensamples to the flock."
- **"thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn."**
 - 1 Tim. 5:17-18 - the labourer is worthy of double honor
 - 1 The. 5:11-12
 - Heb. 13:7, 17
- **"ox"**
 - Gen. 1:24 - cattle (beast of the field)
 - Jer. 11:19 - brought to the slaughter
 - Ex. 20:17, 21:28, Isa. 1:3 - has an owner or master
 - Corn isn't his, but what he treads upon
 - The field isn't his, but what he plow
 - Lightens the labor of treading out the corn or grain
 - Valuable because of this work (Job 24:3 - widow's ox)
 - Paul and the gospel teachers are oxen
 - Treading upon the stalks of God's Word to provide the nourishment of heart for the family and household of the husbandmen.
 - To lighten the labor for others
- **"muzzle"** - often used in the context of being speechless, holding peace
 - Here with the ox it is the issue of putting a muzzle for the ox not to eat the fruit of his labor
 - **Pro. 12:10** - "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel."
 - **Job 6:5** - the ox isn't low over his fodder, but does become low when there is no fodder
 - Support, free, power, incentive - to do so with joy
 - The corn isn't for the ox, but for the husbandmen
- **"that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope."**
 - Purpose you don't muzzle the ox because the ox is laboring for your fruit

{1 Corinthians 9:11} If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

- The contrast of spiritual things and carnal things - which is greater

- Corinthians valued the carnal things more than the spiritual things

{1 Corinthians 9:12} If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

- Paul's humility and great charity
- Just as he didn't use his Christian liberty nor does he use this power

{1 Corinthians 9:13} Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

- The care of the priesthood to the care of those that "preach the gospel".

{1 Corinthians 9:14} Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

- God ordained this

IV. Conclusion: