

- I) V1-2 INTRO: Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our
As we see in 2nd Corinthians, false teachers infiltrated Corinth, attacking Paul
They were greedy Jewish pseudo-intellectuals claiming superiority over Paul
- II) Throughout 2nd Corinthians Paul addresses their accusations
One accusation refers to **his compensation**, accusing him of manipulation
2 Co 2:17 For we are not as so many, **peddling** the word of God; but as of
sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ
- III) One of their many sins was **arrogance**, and they were prone to boast
Ps 94:4 They pour out arrogant words; all the evildoers boast.
- IV) One of their accusations was that he wasn't worthy of financial compensation
His ministry did not deserve any form of support
- V) They inferred that he was being compensated but should not be
He will remind them that he has not received compensation
2 Co 11:7 Was it **a sin** for me to humble myself in order to exalt you, because I
preached the gospel of God to you *free of charge*
- VI) In his ministry to the Corinthians Paul had to deal with many accusations
Here he explains His right to be **financially supported** by those he ministers to
HE BEGINS WITH FOUR QUESTIONS
- VII) These questions are intended to validate his right to support for ministry
These are questions that he answers in various letters
FIRST
- VIII) Am I not an apostle: The obvious answer is **yes** you are an apostle
1 Ti 2:7 And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle --I am
telling the truth, I am not lying --and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.
SECOND
- IX) Am I not free?
I have liberty and am not bound by the Law, but am **free in Jesus** (Jn 8:31-32)
Ro 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ
Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life **has set you free** in Christ Jesus from the law of sin
and death.
Gal. 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not
let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

- I) **THIRD**
Have I not seen Jesus, proving his apostolic credentials
One requirement for apostleship was that of seeing the Lord
Ac 1:21-22 Therefore **it is necessary** to choose one of the men who have been with us **the whole time** the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."
- II) Paul saw the resurrected Christ while on the Road to Damascus
Ac 9:4-5 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "**I am Jesus**, whom you are persecuting," he replied. it is hard for you to kick against the prods.
- FOURTH**
- III) V2 Are you not **my work** in the Lord
Are you not the fruit of my labor, which is the seal of my apostleship?
2 Co 3:1-3 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? **You yourselves** are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, **the result of our ministry**, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.
- IV) The existence of their church evidenced his calling and **right to compensation**
They existed **as believers** because Paul planted the church
1 Co 4:15 For though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you have not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus, **I have begotten you** through the gospel
- V) He was their father in the faith and the one who planted the church
As such, he was worthy of compensation
2 Ti 2:6 The hardworking farmer **must be first** to partake of the crops
- VI) V2b For **you are the seal of** my apostleship in the Lord
You the proof of my ministry
In ancient times seals were used on containers of merchandise, on letters, and on other things to indicate the authenticity of what was inside and to prevent the contents from being substituted or altered. The seal was the official representation of the authority of the one who sent the merchandise or letter. What was under the seal was guaranteed to be genuine.

I) **HE NOW RESPONDS TO HIS CRITICS**

V3 **My defense** to those **who examine** (legal inquiry) **me** is this
Fact: Any work that God is blessing is bound to have attacks

II) Satan works overtime to destroy the work (when it is actually effective)

He normally attacks the shepherd first, to scatter the church

Mt 26:31 Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

HE ASKS

III) V4 Do we have no right to eat and drink

He now is defending his ministerial rights

Should I be denied food and drink, the essentials for life?

IV) This is the right of any minister of God faithfully ministering to God's people

Gal. 6:6 Anyone who receives instruction in the word **must share** all good things with his instructor

V) Let those who are taught by the teachers sustain those who instruct them

This sets him free to spend time in ministry

Ac 6:4 tells us the apostles devoted themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word

SECOND

VI) V5 Do we have no right to take along **a believing wife** as do the other apostles

Don't I have the right to marry and have her minister with me wherever I go?

Paul never thought of marriage for a Christian in any other terms

VII) It reveals that the remaining unnamed apostles took wives on ministry journeys

It also refers to the Lord's brothers, James, Joses, Judas and Simon (Mt 13:55)

VIII) Cephas, also known as the apostle Peter

Mk 1:30-31 Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

IX) This gives support for compensating the pastor enough to support his family

Wives should be free to support their husbands, and to raise their families

I) **PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

This includes her traveling with her husband in ministry

Take along: To carry about in one's company

Support and companionship are important when away from home

II) I never travel without a companion

There are many opportunities for sin when on ministry trips

Philippines and Thailand were offered prostitutes

III) V6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working

Barnabas was a friend and co-minister with Paul

Sarcasm: Are we the only ones who are to pay our own way?

IV) V7 Whoever goes to war at his own expense. Who plants a vineyard and does not

He gives three illustrations showing that laborers are paid

V) **First:** Soldiers are provided food, clothing, arms, and lodging

Second: Farmers do not farm for free, and do other work to live

Third: Shepherds expect at least some milk

VI) **Point:** If these types of work are compensated, why not ministers?

VII) V8-10 Do I say these things as a mere man or does not the law say the same also

This is not just selfish human judgment: God's word commands it

Dt 25:4 God cares for animals, but it is humans that are most valuable

IN ANOTHER PLACE

VIII) Paul gave instruction to a young Pastor by the name of Timothy

1 Ti 5:17-18 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of

double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

HIS POINT

IX) Ministers who rule well are to be generously compensated (Poor and humble?)

Rule well: As evidenced by God's blessing in general on the church

HOW IS THIS EVIDENCED

X) It is evidenced by at least two things

The **content** of the preaching and teaching: Is it true to Scripture, and thorough

The **impact** of the teaching: Are the people being saved and maturing in faith

- I) **Double honor**: Paul is speaking of monetary honor (Honoraria)
Compensate generously the ones ruling well, working tirelessly
Labor: Laboring to the point of exhaustion in the Word to feed God's people
- II) This provides the appropriate environment to work with the fewest distractions
This sets him free from material concerns to focus on the family and ministry
- III) V11 If we have sown **spiritual things** for you is it a great thing if we reap
If you are growing and benefiting, should you not support that ministry?
HIS POINT
- IV) Spiritual food and Spiritual service is to be valued and supported
There are many who do not support ministry because they do not see the benefit
Their faith is not maturing, and their gratitude is limited
- V) Remember the generosity of Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus
In the home of her sister Martha, Mary anointed the feet of Jesus
She took a pound of spikenard, anointed Jesus' feet, wiping His feet with her hair
- VI) The value of the fragrant oil was estimated at 300 days labor
According to USAFacts, the average in the US daily is \$250 per day
- VII) According to Calendar Canada the average farm worker during Jesus' day worked 296 days a year, working 8 hours a day
This would make the value of the ointment around \$74,000
- VIII) Why did Mary anoint Jesus? Because she loved Him
Generosity towards the Lord is a demonstration of love for Him
- IX) V12 If others are partakers of this right over you are we not even more?
This is not a unique concept to you: Others benefit from your finances
You have supported other ministries, and support other people
- X) You pay for every service you receive
In our day, you tip servers, pay for entertainment, and **pay high taxes**
Paying taxes is seen as fulfilling civic duties
- XI) This is part of your normal way of life (Mt 22:21 render to Caesar)

- I) Ro 13:6-7 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due; taxes to whom taxes are due; customs to who customs, fear to whom fear; honor to who honor
- II) V12 If others are partakers of this right over you are we not **even more**
We are not asking for your support: We endure (bear with it silently)
- III) I do not want you to think I am trying to get rich off of the gospel, or you
The simple truth is those who proclaim the gospel are to be supported as they do
- IV) V13 Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things
This is the support system that God established for the nation of Israel
Dt 18:1 The priests, who are Levites --indeed the whole tribe of Levi --are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the offerings made to the LORD by fire, for that is their inheritance.
- V) The principle: Those who serve the Lord are supported by those being served