

**Activating Our Position in Christ**  
**1 Corinthians 9**  
**Living for the Sake of the Gospel**

**ONE THING**

**A believer's RIGHTS in the Gospel must be in SUBMISSION to the believer's OBLIGATION to the Gospel**

*Paul was continuing to answer the questions sent to him...*

*Paul was dealing with a people who saw the Gospel as an unbiblical freedom to live as they wanted...*

*Paul wanted to show them how the believer's rights in the Gospel must be in submission to the believer's obligation to the Gospel*

*So Paul makes this reality very personal by showing them how he, as an Apostle, places his obligation to the Gospel ahead of his personal rights through the Gospel...*

*Paul will later bring all this home for the people...*

*1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV) — Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

**1. Our SURRENDER to the Gospel.**

*1 Corinthians 9:1–2 (ESV) — Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my*

*workmanship in the Lord? 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.*

*Paul begins this chapter by pointing out that he too has “rights” as much as any other believer.*

*In fact, he is building an argument of all the rights he has as an apostle...*

*His primary point he uses is his right to receive pay for his ministry to the Church...*

*Like a lawyer making a case, Paul gives multiple reasons why the Corinthian believers are under “obligation” to be taking full care of him as an apostle of Jesus...*

*However, he concludes with this...*

*1 Corinthians 9:15 (ESV) — But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.*

*His point is that, FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL, he has surrendered his life and rights...*

*Romans 12:1 (ESV) — I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship*

**A believer's rights in the Gospel must be in submission to the believer's obligation to the Gospel**

**1. Our SURRENDER to the Gospel.**

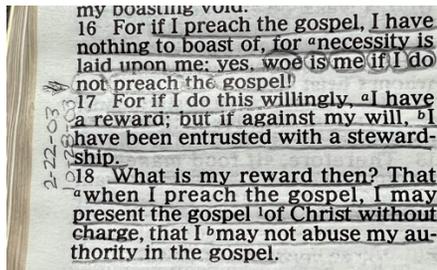
## 2. Our STEWARDSHIP of the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:16–17 (ESV) — For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.

### → Story of 1 Corinthians 9:16-17

- On Saturday, February 22, 2003 reading

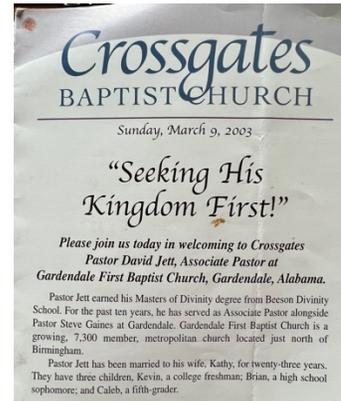
### → Pic of Bible



- The Lord burst in my spirit that it was time to step into being a Senior Pastor
- So I asked the Lord, “Well, what do I do next?”
- He simply said, “I have your number”
- I sat down with Kathy and told her what the Lord had said to me...
- Sunday, February 23, 2003 at around 7:30 pm, I receive a call from Brother Fred Wolfe
- “I’m at a church in MS that is so much like GFBC. They have a new preacher that is going to be out on a Sunday and he asked if I knew anyone who could preach in his place. I immediately thought of you.”

- March 9, 2003, I came to CBC and preached AM & PM services

### → Pic of Worship Guide



- When I was leaving Brandon on I-20 I said to the Lord, “Now why can’t I pastor a church like that?”
- We are ALL to not only be STUDENTS of God’s Word, but STEWARDS of the Gospel!

What does it actually mean to be a steward of the Gospel?

A steward is a manager, not an owner...

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) — And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

As a manager, he/she is responsible and accountable for that which has been entrusted to them

That’s a LOT of pressure!

**2 Corinthians 11:28 (ESV) — And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.**

**We are STEWARDS, not OWNERS!**

***A believer's rights in the Gospel must be in submission to the believer's obligation to the Gospel***

**1. Our SURRENDER to the Gospel.**

**2. Our STEWARDSHIP of the Gospel.**

**3. Our SERVANTHOOD for the Gospel.**

**1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (ESV) — For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.**

**Some, through the years, have mistakenly seen this as Paul justifying “worldly behavior” in order to reach lost people...**

**This is not what he is saying!**

**What Paul is saying is that he is a servant to the Gospel.**

**Notice what he says...**

- **To the Jews I became a Jew – meaning he would follow the Jewish customs when he was in a Jewish community**
- **To those under the law I became as one under the law... - meaning that he would follow the Jewish laws when he was with people like the Pharisees...**
- **To those outside the law I became as one outside the law – meaning the Gentiles. However, he clarifies himself by adding, (not being outside the law of God, but under the law of Christ)**
- **To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak – he spoke of these earlier when he was referring to eating food sacrificed to idols...**
- **I have become all things to all people, that by all means I may win some – Here he is NOT referring to becoming worldly!**

**What he is saying is that HE IS A SERVANT to the Gospel!**

***A believer's rights in the Gospel must be in submission to the believer's obligation to the Gospel***

**1. Our SURRENDER to the Gospel.**

**2. Our STEWARDSHIP of the Gospel.**

**3. Our SERVANTHOOD for the Gospel.**

**4. Our SELF-CONTROL through the Gospel.**

**1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (ESV) — Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-**

**control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable  
wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I  
do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body  
and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I  
myself should be disqualified.**

***A believer’s rights in the Gospel must be in  
submission to the believer’s obligation to the  
Gospel***

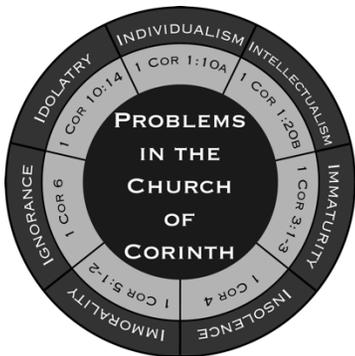
➤ ***This is not simply a DECISION to  
INCORPORATE, but is a GRACE to ACTIVATE!***

**Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV) — But the fruit of the Spirit is love,  
joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no  
law.**

**2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV) — For God gave us a spirit not of fear  
but of power and love and self-control.**

**When believers place their personal rights and freedom  
ahead of the Gospel the results always lead to the works of  
the flesh!**

→ ***Problems in the Corinthian Church***



**Activating Our Position in Christ**  
**1 Corinthians 9**  
**Living for the Sake of the Gospel**

A believer's \_\_\_\_\_ in the Gospel must be in \_\_\_\_\_ to  
the believer's \_\_\_\_\_ to the Gospel

1. Our \_\_\_\_\_ to the Gospel.

2. Our \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel.

➤ We are \_\_\_\_\_ to not only be \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word,  
but \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel!

3. Our \_\_\_\_\_ for the Gospel.

4. Our \_\_\_\_\_ through the Gospel.

➤ This is not simply a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_,  
but is a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_!

