

AS MANY AS POSSIBLE



I Corinthians 9:19 – 22

By

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As Many As Possible

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19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. ¹ I Corinthians 9: 19 – 22

The life of Paul is a study of extremes,(exceeding, going beyond the bounds of moderation) extreme perseverance,(forgetting those things that are

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behind, and reaching forth to that which lies before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus) extreme commitment(For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor heights, nor depths, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.) And extreme faith (For me to live is Christ and to die is to gain). He was a man who wrote much, loved much, and gave much, all for the cause of Christ.

Paul had the pedigree, the education and the religious credentials, yet he claimed to know only Christ and Him crucified. And though he could

boast about all of his background and credentials, he counted it all as nothing for the privilege of a closer walk with Jesus. Paul was in deed a man on a mission, a mission to preach the gospel of Christ to **As Many As Possible!** Listen again to the words of this mission:

19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

What I have found to be the most impressive about Paul is how a man of small physical stature could be so bold, fearless, and relentless in his pursuit for the preaching of the gospel. He refused to let shipwreck, or imprisonment stop him. There were those, even among faithful believers who did not believe that Saul the persecutor could make such a miraculous conversion at the Damascus road to Paul the prolific Preacher. And yet he preached, he evangelized, and he spread the word to **As Many As Possible!** What I hope that we convey this morning as well as what you take with you, is a renewed, profound commitment to follow in the footsteps of Paul. In fact it was Paul who said “Follow me as I also follow Christ.”

In our text today we find Paul writing to the church that he founded in Corinth. He is reminding them of the sacrifices that he has made so that the Gospel would not be compromised. No one could say that what he preached was bought and paid for by any man. It was not that he was not concerned for his own welfare, but his welfare was not as important to him as the welfare of his fellow man. And should anyone be able to say that what he preached was biased or prejudice by the influence of some special interest group, he knew that it would shatter the faith and confidence of the followers of Christ that he was still nurturing. It was important to him that he be able to continue to strengthen those already in the fold and to continue to reach out to those who had not yet heard the gospel message,

Paul creates the template that we as followers of Christ should follow in our efforts to reach **As Many As Possible!**

19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. If I may use laymen terms what Paul is saying is I put my concerns for self on the back burner. I willingly subdued myself for the sake of elevating others. If that is what it takes to win souls for Christ, that's what I'm going to do.

20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

Paul, like Christ, went to his own. He did not reclaim the Mosaic law as the foundation of his faith but he

let them know that Christ was the fulfillment of that law.

21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

Not only did Paul go to the Jews, but he went to the Gentiles as well. As a matter of fact Paul proclaimed himself as the Apostle to the Gentiles. He did not in anyway renounce the importance of the role of the law, but the gentile did not know the law and as such were not exposed to the challenges presented by the law. He let them know that because Christ was the fulfillment of the law that they (Gentiles followers of Christ) were now under grace.

22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

Hear Paul as he emphasizes the ultimate objective of his mission which is the ultimate objective of “The Great Commission”: I will meet my fellow man wherever he is, relate to him on his level, respond to whatever his need may be, ***I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.*** Our job, my brothers and sisters, our mission, is the same as Paul’s to win **As Many As Possible** to Christ.