

The Gospel and Our Rights

1 Corinthians 9



Trilogy (1 Cor. 8-10)



Chapter 8

Loving Knowledge

- Don't stumble weaker



Chapter 9

True Liberty

- Sacrificing rights for sake of Gospel



Chapter 10

Dealing with Temptation

- Reject idolatry – Do not partake of food offered to idols

MEAT SACRIFICED TO IDOLS



Strong



Weak



Strong



Knowledge



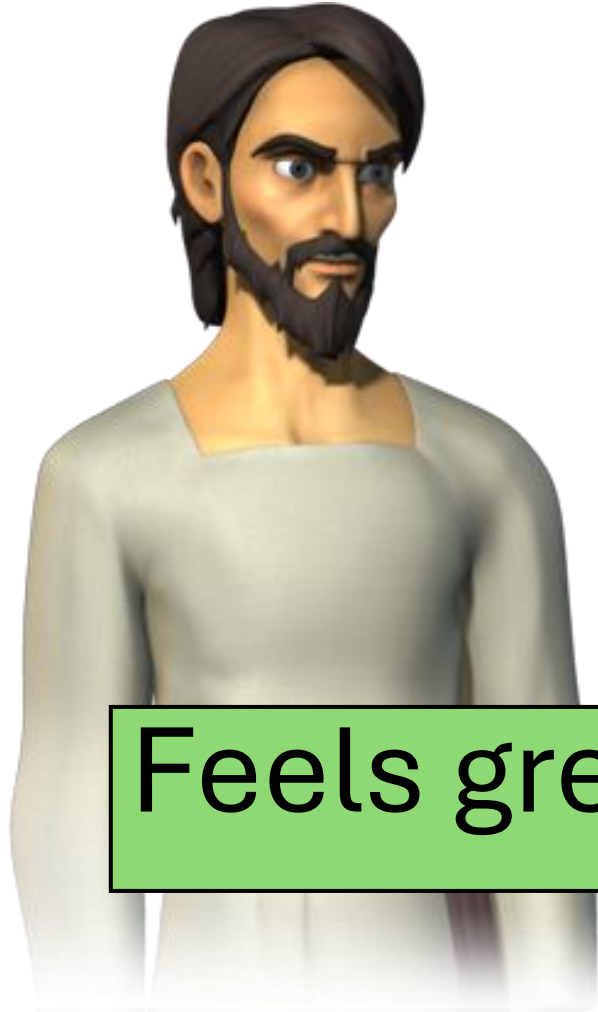
Weak



Strong

Knowledge

Weak



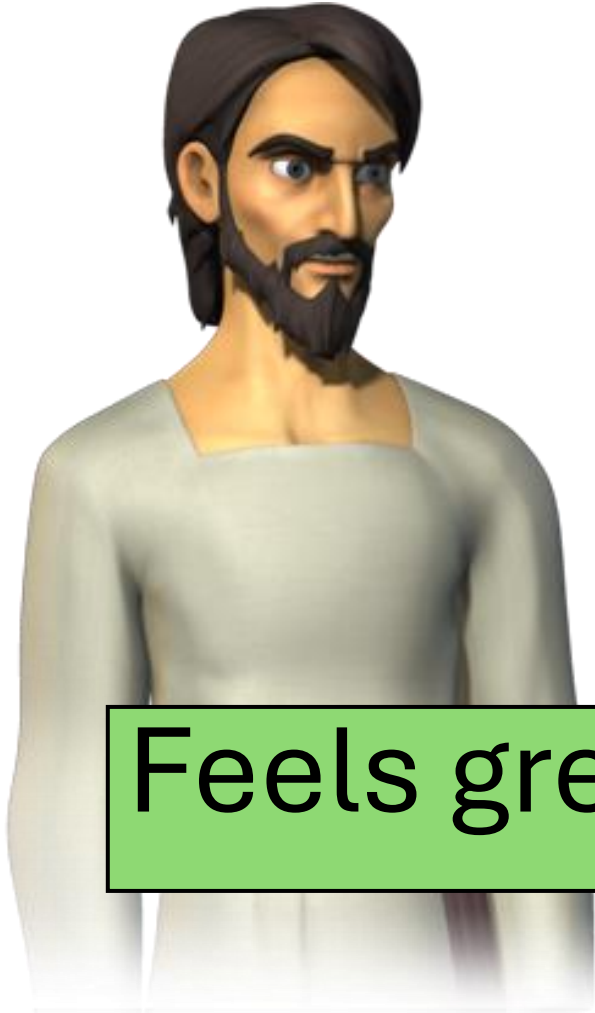
Feels great



Strong

Knowledge

Weak



Feels great

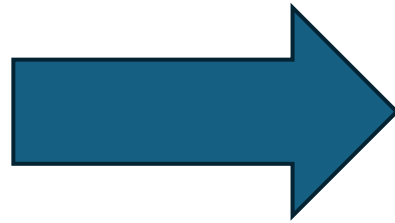
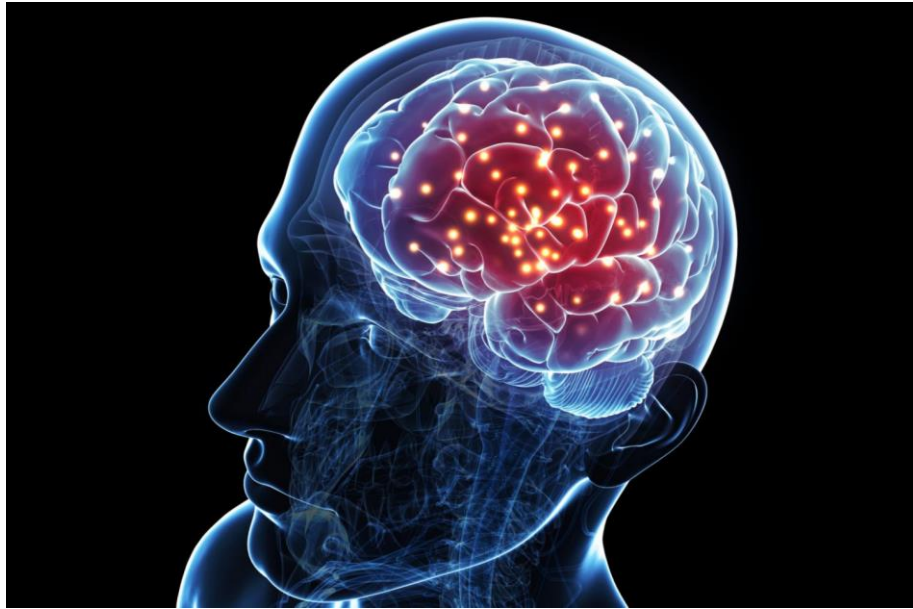
Feels guilty

Knowledge

- The strong believers had knowledge
 - But they were not using their knowledge in love
- Instead of building up the weak saints
 - They were only puffing themselves up



Knowledge



Love



Paul's Conclusion to 1 Cor. 8

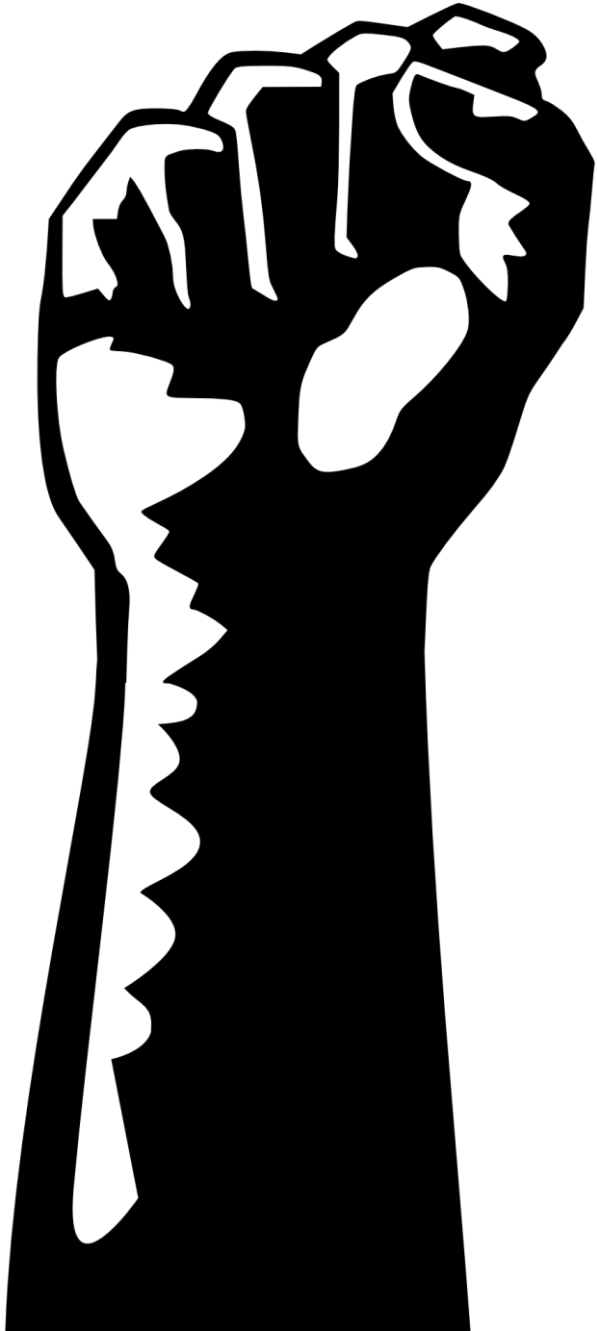
- Sacrifice the Right (to eat meat) in Love
- 1 Cor. 8:13 – "Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."



Paul's Conclusion to 1 Cor. 8

- Sacrifice the Right (to eat meat) in Love
- 1 Cor. 8:13 – "Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."
- No meat?
- No stumbling?





The Gospel and Our Rights

1 Corinthians 9



The journey towards

HUMAN RIGHTS





**INTERNATIONAL
ANIMAL RIGHTS
DAY**



THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS
MONTANA

Gun Rights

ALTERNATOR
BOOKS™

THE GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT





Israel: Right to self defence
Gaza: Right to life



The Gospel and Paul's Rights

Paul had Rights (v. 1-14)

1 Corinthians 9:1-2

- "1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?"
- 2 If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord."

Paul Asserts His Apostleship

- Am I not an apostle?
- Am I not free?
- Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?
- Are you not my work in the Lord?



Paul Asserts His Apostleship

- Am I not an apostle? - Yes
- Am I not free? - Yes
- Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? - Yes
- Are you not my work in the Lord? - Yes

Conclusion => Paul is an apostle



As an Apostle, Paul had Rights



1 Corinthians 9:3-6

- "3 My defense to those who examine me is this:
- 4 Do we have no right to eat and drink?
- 5 Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?
- 6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working?"

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Apostolic Rights

Right to **Material**
Support for
himself

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Apostolic Rights

Right to **Material
Support** for
himself

Right to **Material
Support** for his
wife







Six Reasons why Paul had the Right to be Supported by the Churches

He was an
apostle (v.1-6)

1 Corinthians 9:7

- "7 Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?"

It is Customary to Pay Workers (3 Illustrations)

- "Who ever goes to war at his own expense?"



It is Customary to Pay Workers (3 Illustrations)

- "Who ever goes to war at his own expense?"
- "Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit?"



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Six Reasons why Paul had the Right to be Supported by the Churches

He was an
apostle (v.1-6)



It is customary to
pay workers (v. 7)

1 Corinthians 9:8-11

- "8 Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also?"
- 9 For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about?"
- 10 Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.
- 11 If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?"

You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain



1 Timothy 5:18

- "For the Scripture says, **“You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,”** and, **“The laborer is worthy of his wages.”**”



Six Reasons why Paul had the Right to be Supported by the Churches

He was an
apostle (v.1-6)



It is customary to
pay workers (v. 7)



It is according to
God's law (v. 8-
11)

1 Corinthians 9:12a

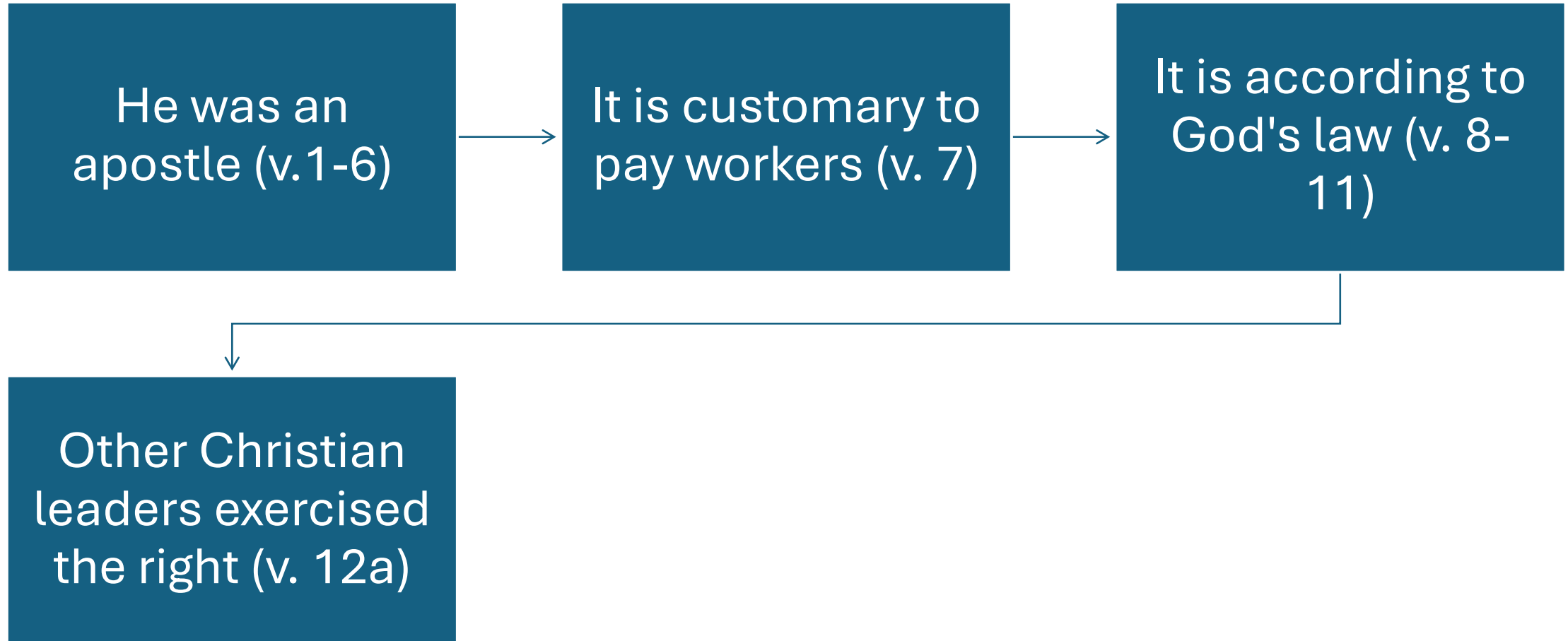
- "12 If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more?..."

Legitimate & Rightful claim on Material Support

- Other Christian ministers at that time also were supported



Six Reasons why Paul had the Right to be Supported by the Churches



1 Corinthians 9:13

- "13 Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar **partake of the offerings** of the altar?"

Old Testament (Priests)

- **Numbers 18:8-32**
- "And the Lord spoke to Aaron: "Here, I Myself have also given you charge of My heave offerings, all the holy gifts of the children of Israel; I have given them as a portion to you and your sons, as an ordinance forever. 9 This shall be yours of the most holy things reserved from the fire: every offering of theirs, every grain offering and every sin offering and every trespass offering which they render to Me, shall be most holy for you and your sons. 10 In a most holy place you shall eat it; every male shall eat it. It shall be holy to you.
- 11 "This also is yours: the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel; I have given them to you, and your sons and daughters with you, as an ordinance forever. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it.
- 12 "All the best of the oil, all the best of the new wine and the grain, their firstfruits which they offer to the Lord, I have given them to you. 13 Whatever first ripe fruit is in their land, which they bring to the Lord, shall be yours. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it.
- 14 "Every devoted thing in Israel **shall be yours.**"

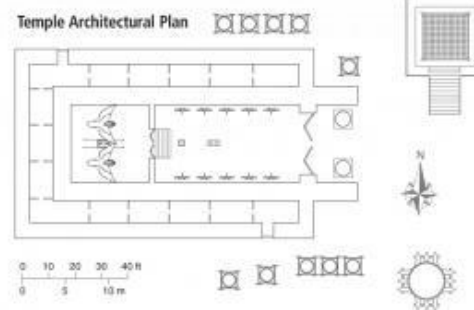


A structure with three levels was built around the walls of the temple. The lower chamber was 7.5 feet (2.3 m) wide, the middle chamber was 9 feet (2.7 m) wide, and the upper chamber was 10.5 feet (3.2 m) wide (1 Kings 6:5–6, 8, 10).

Two ornate wooden doors, overlaid with gold, separated the inner sanctuary from the nave (1 Kings 6:31–32).

The nave had clerestory windows with recessed frames (1 Kings 6:4).

The vestibule was 30 feet (9.1 m) wide and 15 feet (4.6 m) deep (1 Kings 6:3; cf. 2 Chron. 3:4).



The hollow bronze pillar on the north was called "Boaz," and the one on the south was called "Jachin" (1 Kings 7:21; cf. 2 Chron. 3:17).

Two ornate wooden, folding doors, overlaid with gold, separated the nave from the vestibule (1 Kings 6:33–35).

The bronze altar for burnt offerings was 15 feet (4.6 m) high and 30 feet (9.1 m) long and wide (cf. 2 Chron. 4:1).

The inner sanctuary (or Most Holy Place) was a 30-foot (9.1-m) cube (1 Kings 6:15–29; 2 Chron. 3:8–14). Such rooms were often elevated in temples of the ancient Near East. Two massive golden cherubim stood on either side of the ark, each 15 feet (4.6 m) tall with 15-foot (4.6-m) wingspans (1 Kings 6:23–28). The ark of the covenant stood between the two cherubim (1 Kings 8:1–11; cf. 2 Chron. 5:2–14).

The nave (or Holy Place) was 60 feet (18 m) long and 30 feet (9.1 m) wide (1 Kings 6:15, 17–18; cf. 2 Chron. 3:5–7). It contained the golden altar of incense; the golden table for the bread of the Presence; and 10 golden lampstands, five on the north and five on the south (1 Kings 7:48–49; cf. 2 Chron. 4:7).

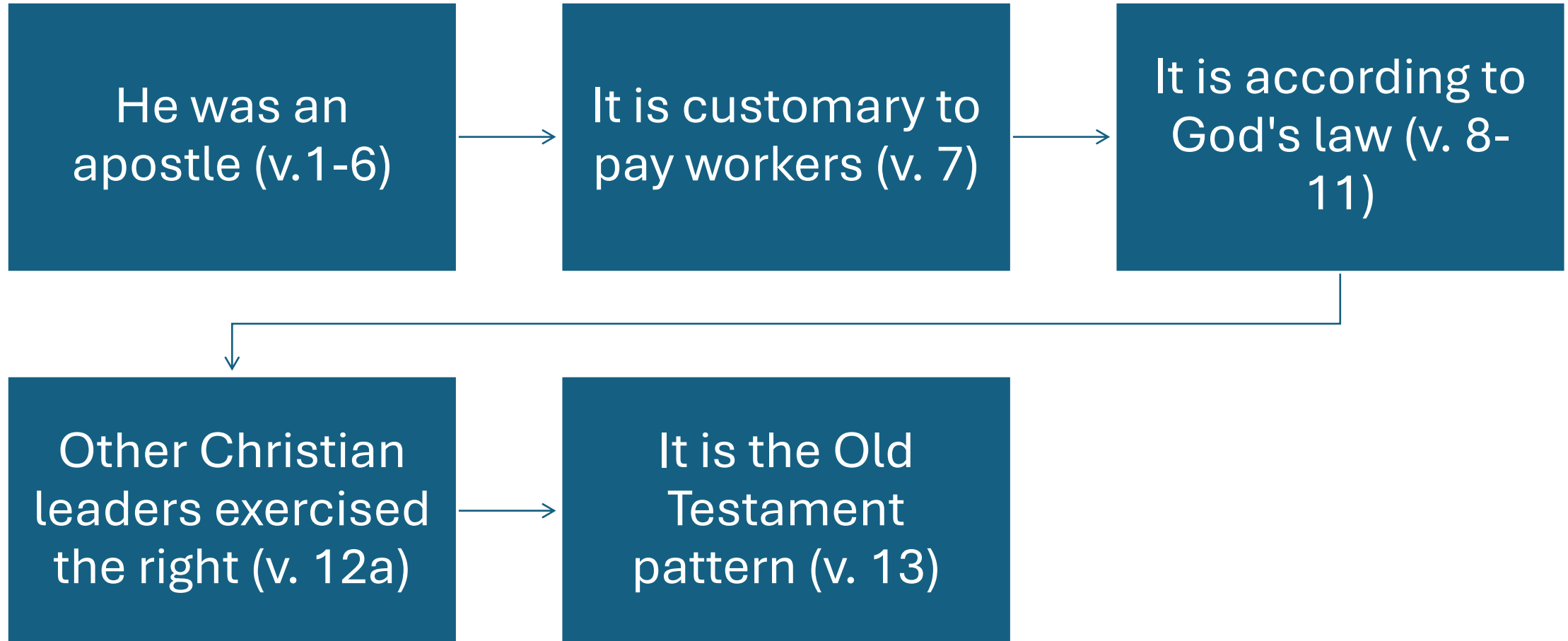
Ten bronze wheeled stands, each holding a large basin, contained water for rinsing off the animal parts that were used for the burnt offerings (1 Kings 7:27–38; cf. 2 Chron. 4:6).

The "sea" was a metal basin 7.5 feet (2.3 m) high and 15 feet (4.6 m) in diameter. It held 12,000 gallons (44,000 liters) of water for the priests to wash in. It was supported by 12 bronze oxen in sets of three, facing in each direction (1 Kings 7:23–26; cf. 2 Chron. 4:2–5).

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Solomon began to build "the house of the Lord" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the spring of 967 or 966 a.c. (1 Kings 6:1; 2 Chron. 3:1–2) and completed it seven years later, in the fall of 960 or 959 (1 Kings 6:38). The temple itself, not including the surrounding chambers on three sides, was 90 feet (27 m) long, 30 feet (9 m) wide, and 45 feet (14 m) high. It stood in the middle of a court with boundary walls.

Six Reasons why Paul had the Right to be Supported by the Churches



1 Corinthians 9:14

- "14 Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel."

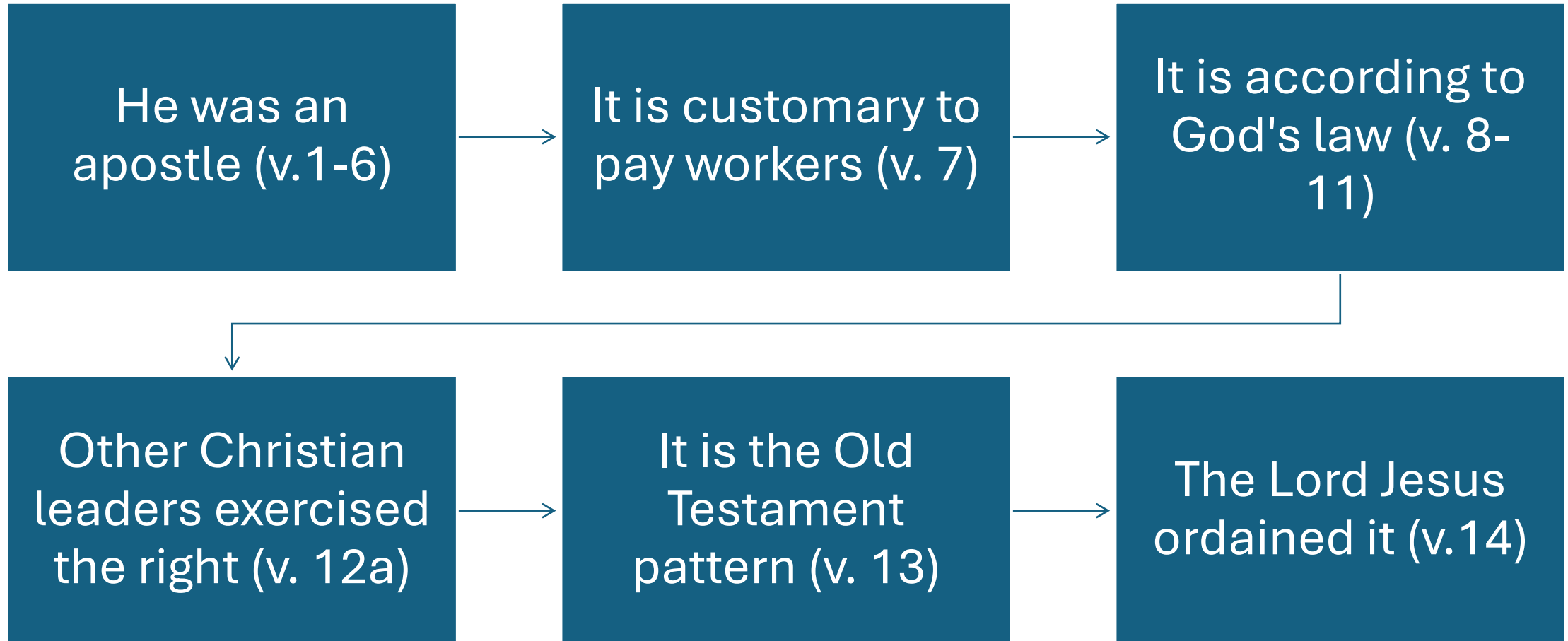
The Lord's Command

Luke 10:7-8

- "7 And remain in the same house, **eating and drinking** such things as they give, for the **laborer is worthy of his wages**. Do not go from house to house.
- 8 Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, **eat** such things as are **set before you**."



Six Reasons why Paul had the Right to be Supported by the Churches



The Gospel and Paul's Rights

Paul had Rights (v. 1-14)

Paul had Liberty (v.15-23)

The Gospel and Paul's Rights

Paul had Rights (v. 1-14)

Paul had Liberty (v.15-23)

- Liberty to exercise his rights
- Liberty to sacrifice his rights



SAL

ARY

1 Corinthians 9:12

- "12 If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ."

Paul's Occupation

Acts 18:1-3


- "1 After these things **Paul** departed from Athens and went to Corinth.
- 2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them.
- 3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were **tentmakers**.



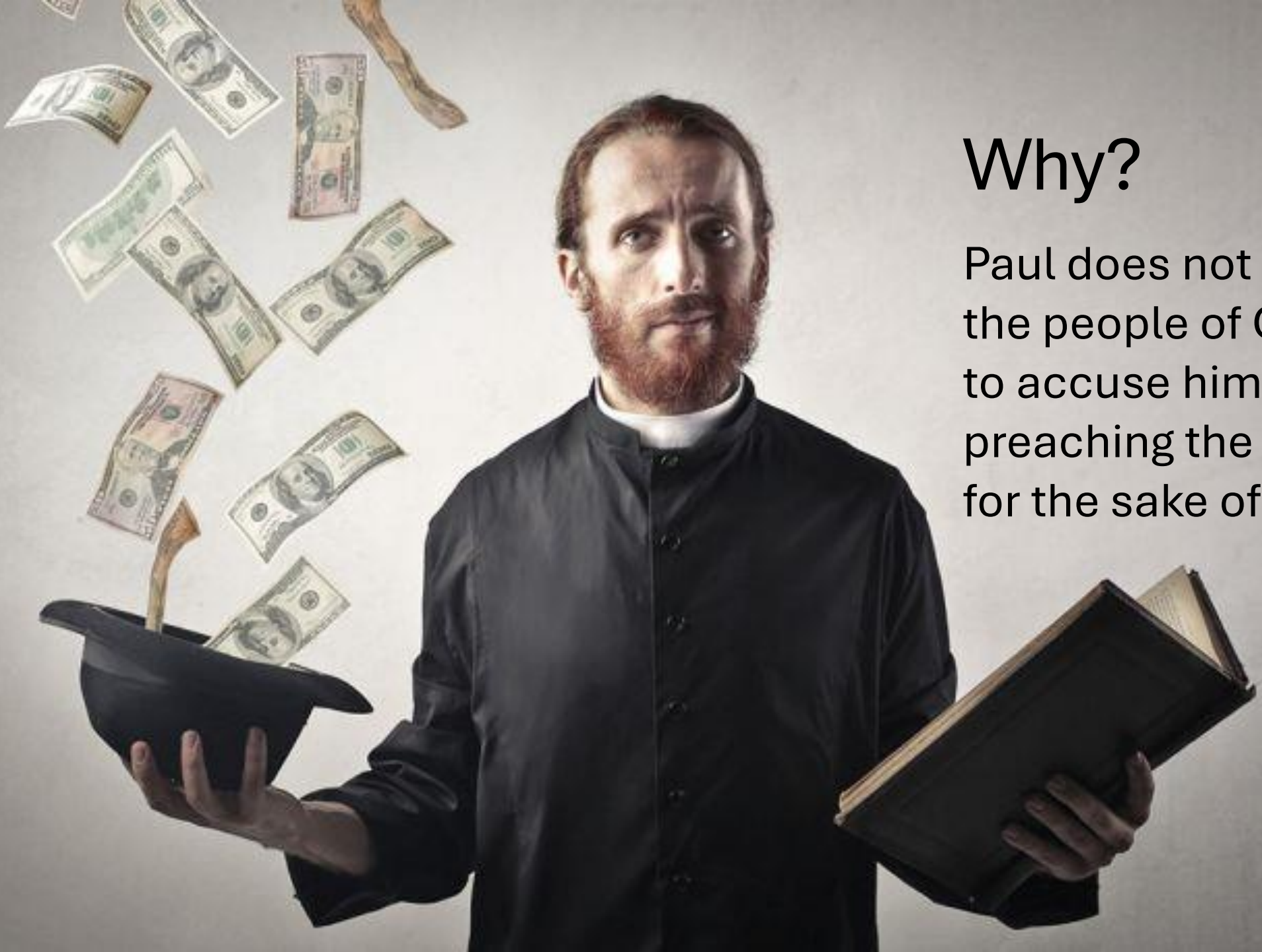
Paul has instead Withheld His Rights

- v. 12b – "we have not used this right"
- Not because he is undeserving
 - He has established that he had every right to receive material support





Why?

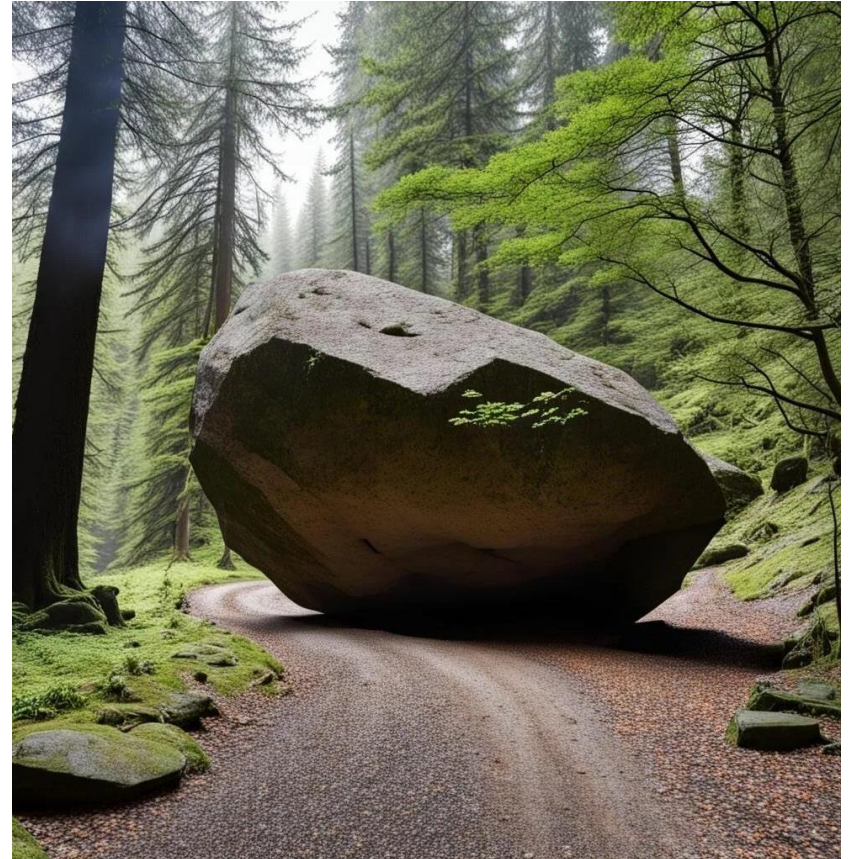


Why?

Paul does not want the people of Corinth to accuse him of preaching the Gospel for the sake of money

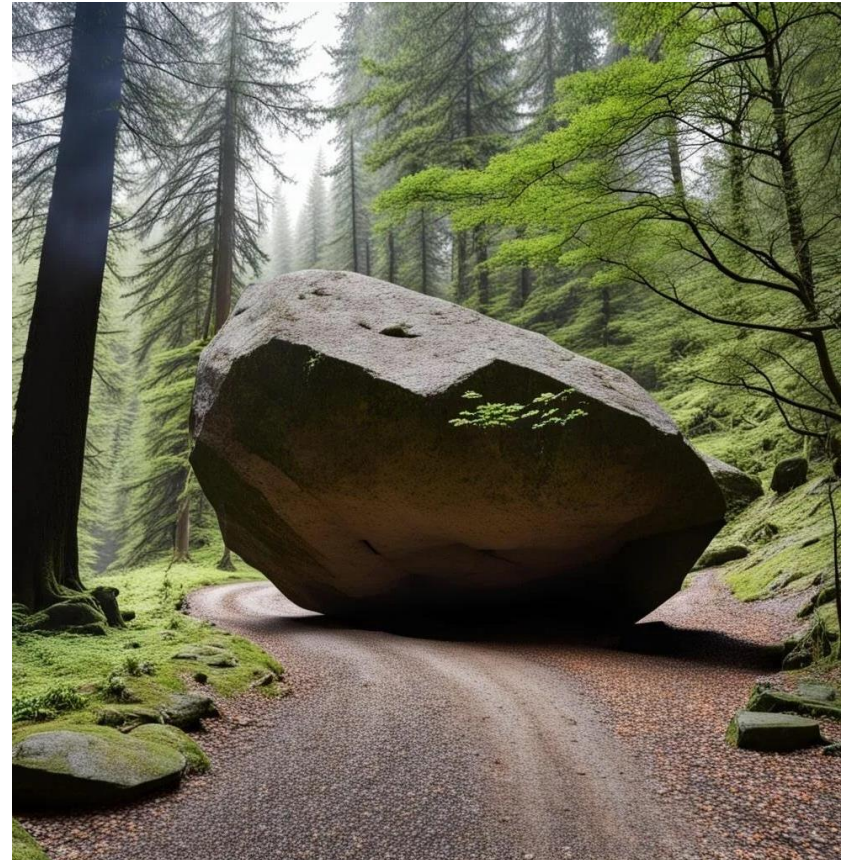
Hindrance/Obstacle

- 1 Cor. 9:12b (ESV) - "Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an **obstacle** in the way of the gospel of Christ."
- **Hinder/Obstacle**



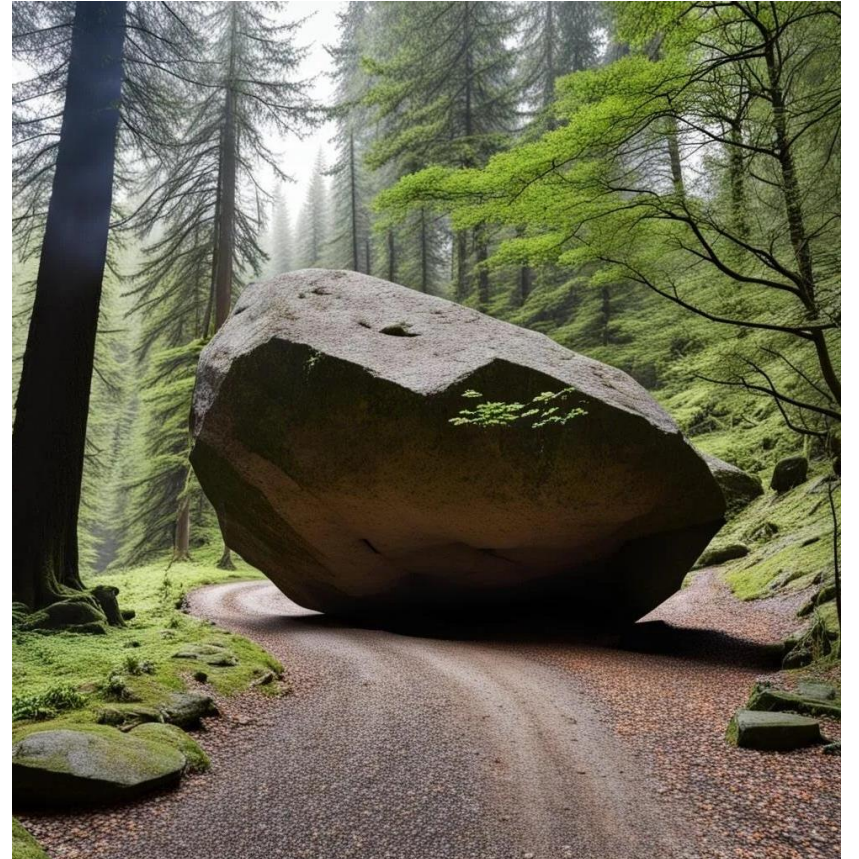
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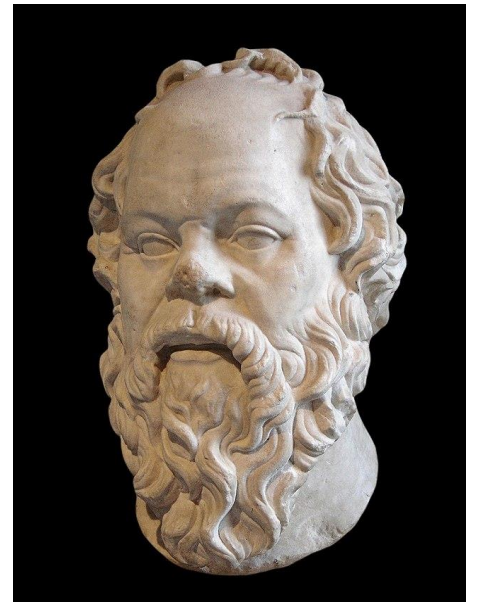
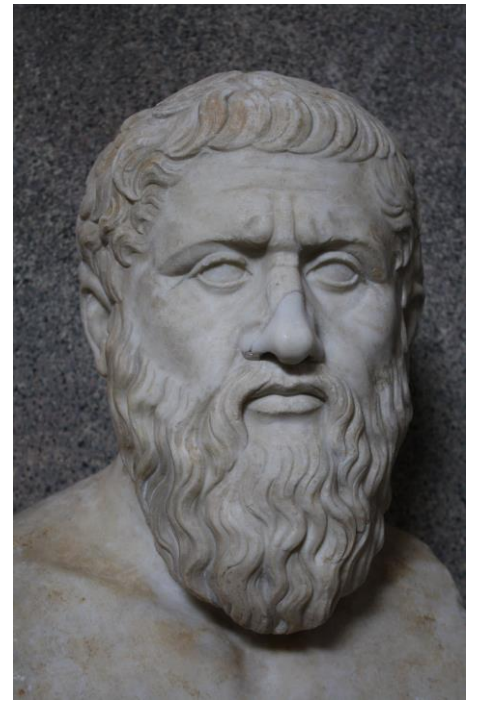
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- **Hinder/Obstacle**
 - Paul does not want anyone to doubt the **motive** of His preaching the Gospel
 - Paul does not want anyone to doubt the **authenticity** of the Gospel



Other Greek Teachers/Preachers

- In Corinth, the Greek cities were filled with teachers and preachers who were out to make money
- Paul refused to accept money from those to whom he ministered
 - To make the message of the Gospel free from any obstacles/hindrances in the mind of unbelievers







THE PROSPERITY
GOSPEL

1 Corinthians 9:15-18

- "15 But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void.
- 16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!
- 17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.
- 18 What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel."

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Paul Gave Up His Rights (Repeat)

- 1 Cor. 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."



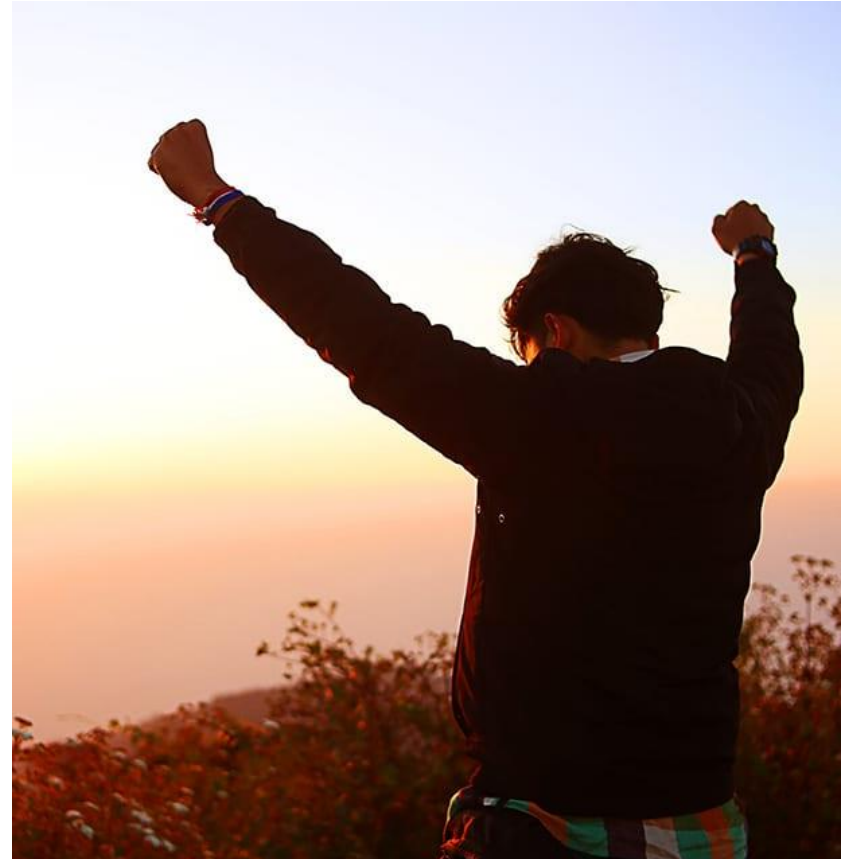
Paul Not Hinting for Provisions Either

- 1 Cor. 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."



Boasting?

- 1 Cor. 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.**"



Preaching the Gospel – A Necessity

- 1 Cor. 9:16 – "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"



Where does the reward come from?

- 1 Cor. 9:17 – "For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship."



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- **Willingly** –
Rewarded

=> **Optional**



Where does the reward come from?

- 1 Cor. 9:17 – "For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship."
- **Willingly** –
Rewarded => **Optional**
- **Unwillingly** – It is a responsibility/stewardship
=> **Obligation**



A pair of hands is shown holding a small, square gift wrapped in white paper with a red ribbon tied around it. The background is blurred, showing a person in a white shirt. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

What Reward?

- 1 Cor. 9:18 – "What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel."

A pair of hands is shown holding a small, square gift wrapped in white paper. The gift is tied with a vibrant red ribbon that forms a bow on top. The hands are positioned to present the gift directly towards the viewer. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a person in a light blue shirt.

What Reward?

- 1 Cor. 9:18 – "What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel."
- Paul is able to preach the Gospel as a gift to others in love!

What we do – is it for self-gain?
Or for the love of others?



1 Corinthians 9:19-23

- "19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;
- 20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;
- 21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;
- 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.
- 23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you."

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Gospel Freedom

- "free from all men"
- He did not need to follow Jewish ways any longer
- He is free from the Law because Christ fulfilled the Law
- He had no obligations to anyone
- 1 Cor. 6:12a - "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful..."



1 Corinthians 9:19-23

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SERVE

Paul's Freedom allowed Him to Serve in Love



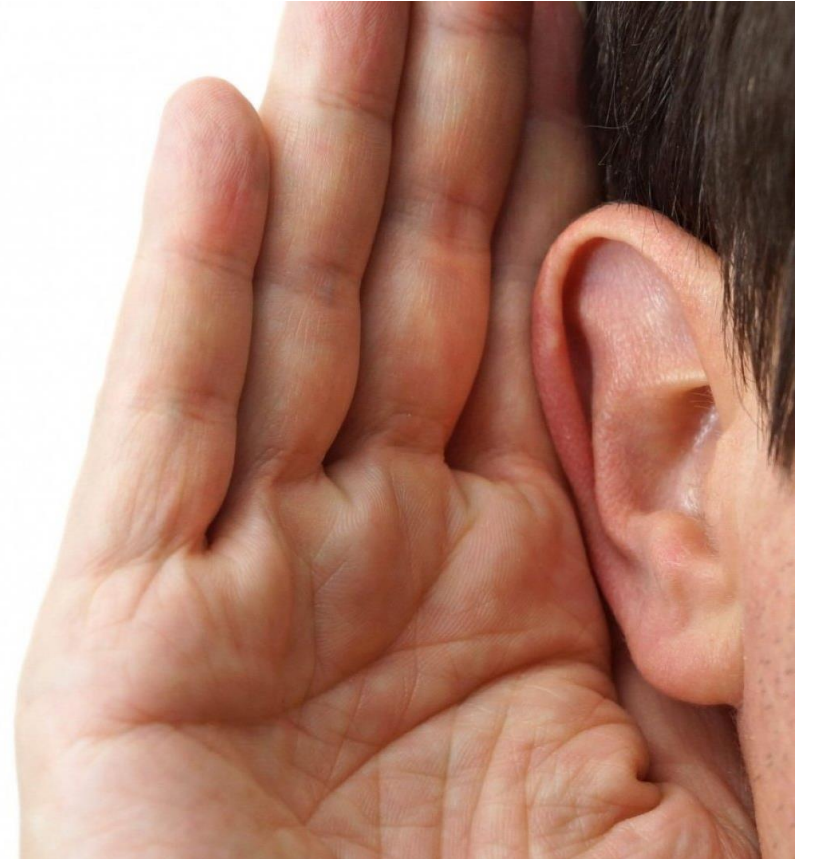
How?

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Sensitivity in Preaching

- To the Jew I became a Jew
 - Paul was sensitive to **culture**

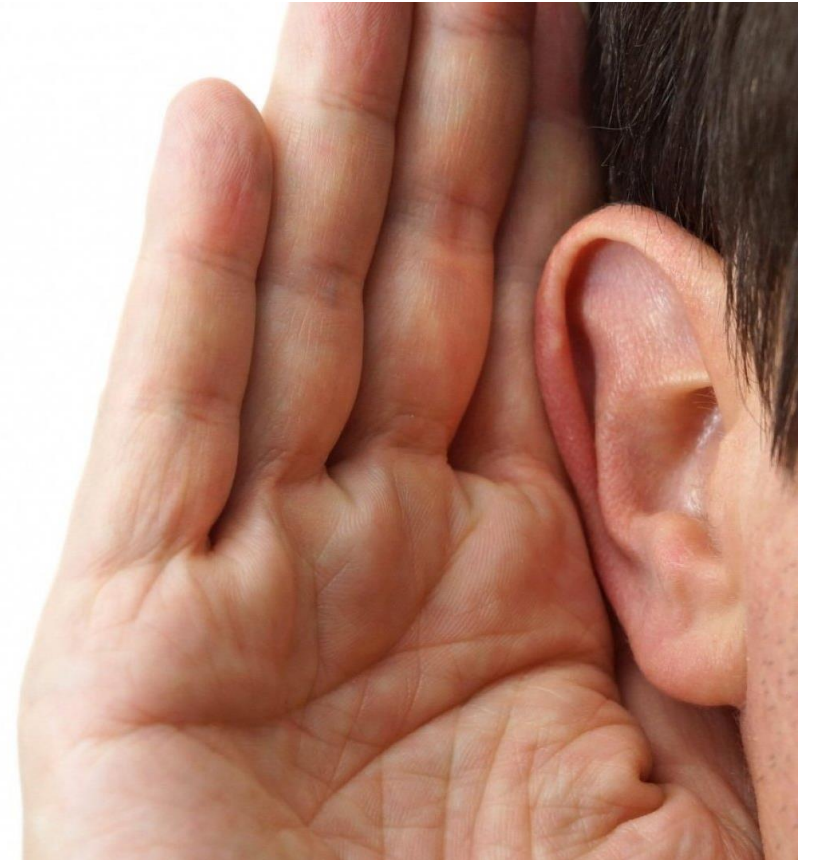


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- To those who are without law, as without law
 - Paul was sensitive to **prejudice**

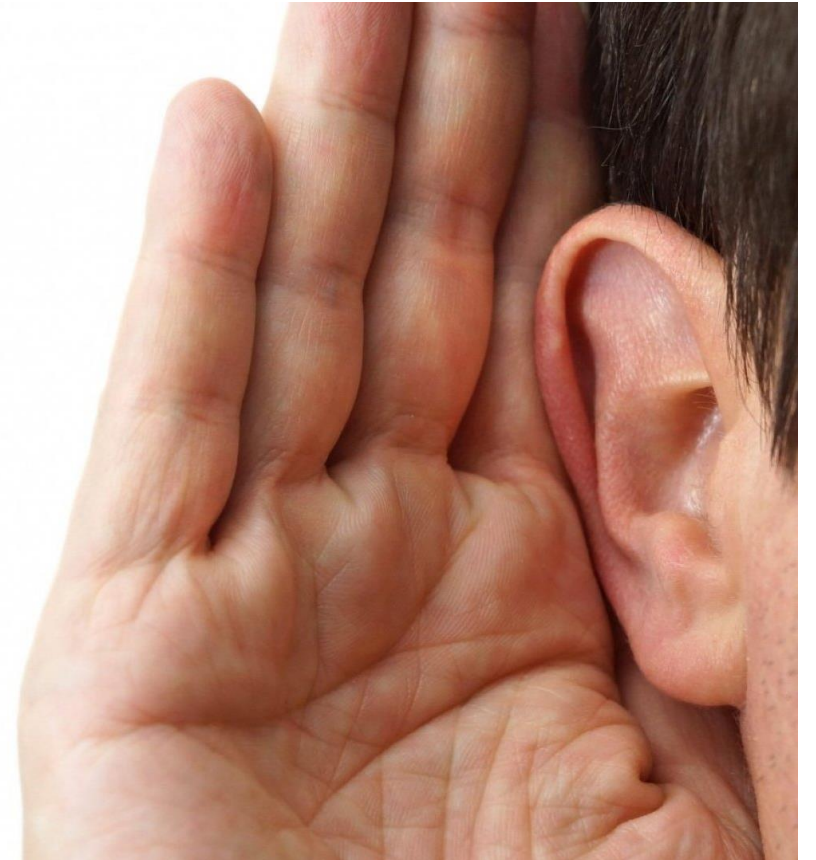


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Sensitivity in Preaching

- To the Jew I became a Jew
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- To those who are without law, as without law
 - Paul was sensitive to **prejudice**
- To the weak I became as weak
 - Paul was sensitive to **conscience**



To the Weak I Became as Weak

- 1 Cor. 8:13 – "Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."
- Should not the stronger believers in the church be able to set aside their rights for the sake of the weaker saints?

Weak



To the Weak I Became as Weak

- 1 Cor. 8:13 – "Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."
- Should not the stronger believers in the church be able to set aside their rights for the sake of the weaker saints?
- Was eating meat more important than edifying the church?

Weak



Paul's Concern

- Paul did not object to the strong eating idol food because it comprised some inherent religious danger
 - But because it caused the weak to violate their conscience
- His concern is that the strong be more sensitive and show compassion to the weak
- Concern for the welfare of the fellow Christian becomes the key for deciding what is right or wrong



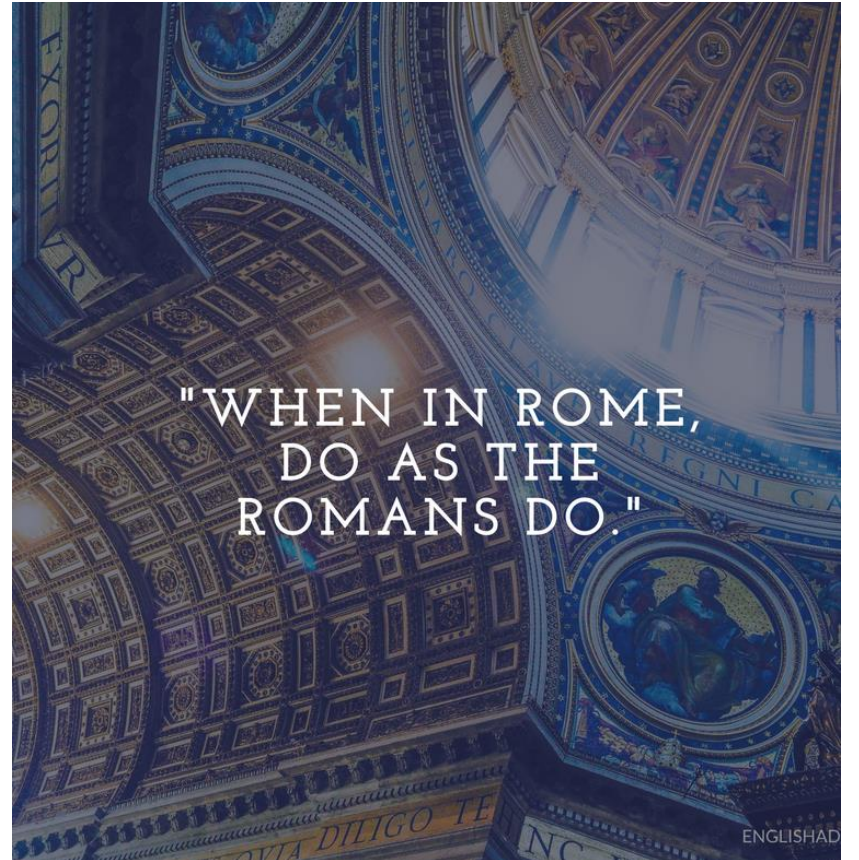
Gospel comes First

- As he enters different communities, Paul is constantly on the **lookout** for anything in his actions or life that might cause people's ears to close against the Gospel
- And yet, he is prepared to sacrifice his personal social and cultural preferences if they might cloud the message of Christ



Enculturation of the Gospel

- Enculturating the Gospel so that the Gospel is palatable and understandable to others
- Otherwise, the culture stands in the way of them understanding the Gospel



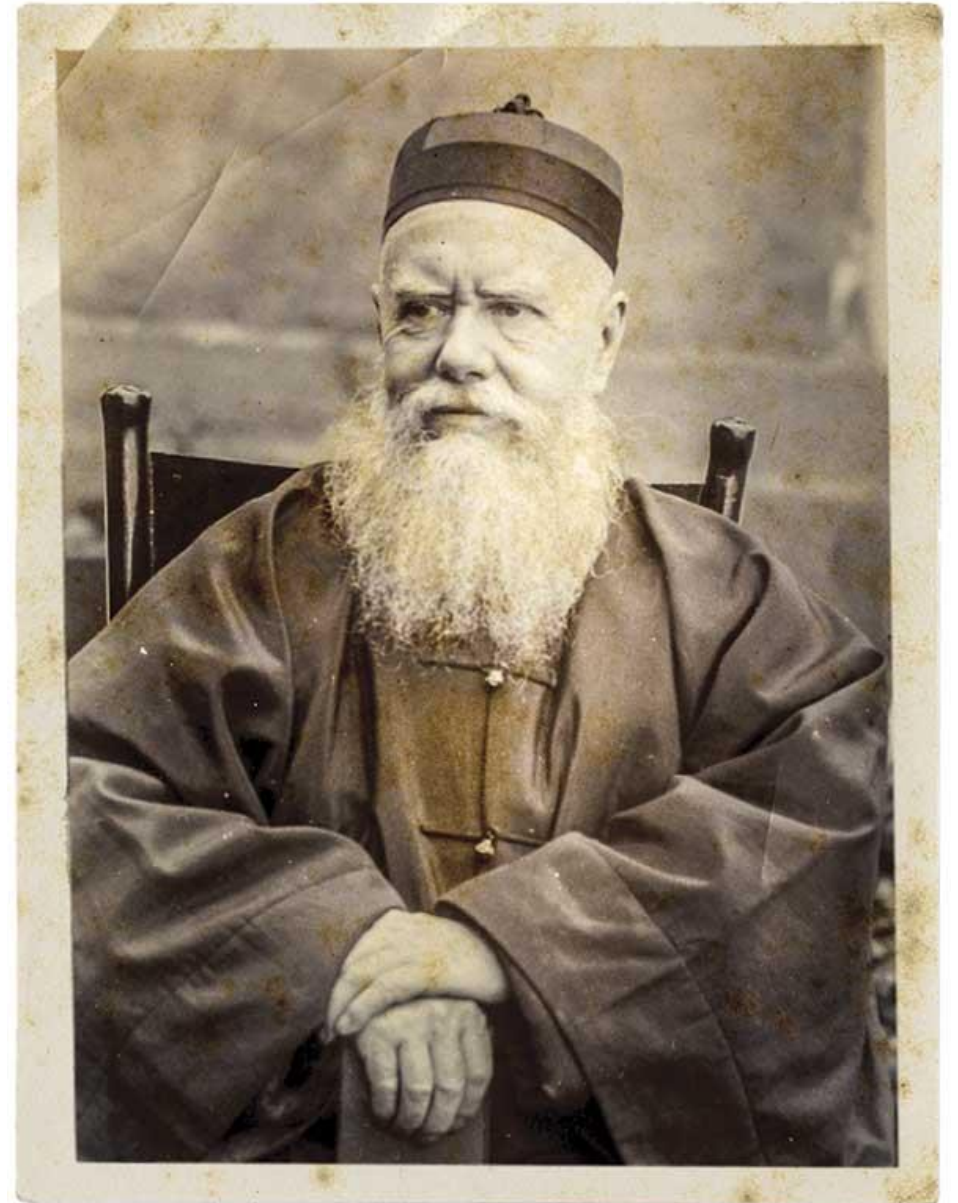
Enculturation of the Gospel

Example: Hudson Taylor



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1 Corinthians 9:22-23

- "22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have **become all things to all men**, that I might by all means save some.
- 23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you."

TO THE WEAK I BECAME WEAK, THAT I MIGHT WIN THE WEAK.

I HAVE BECOME

ALL THINGS

TO ALL PEOPLE,

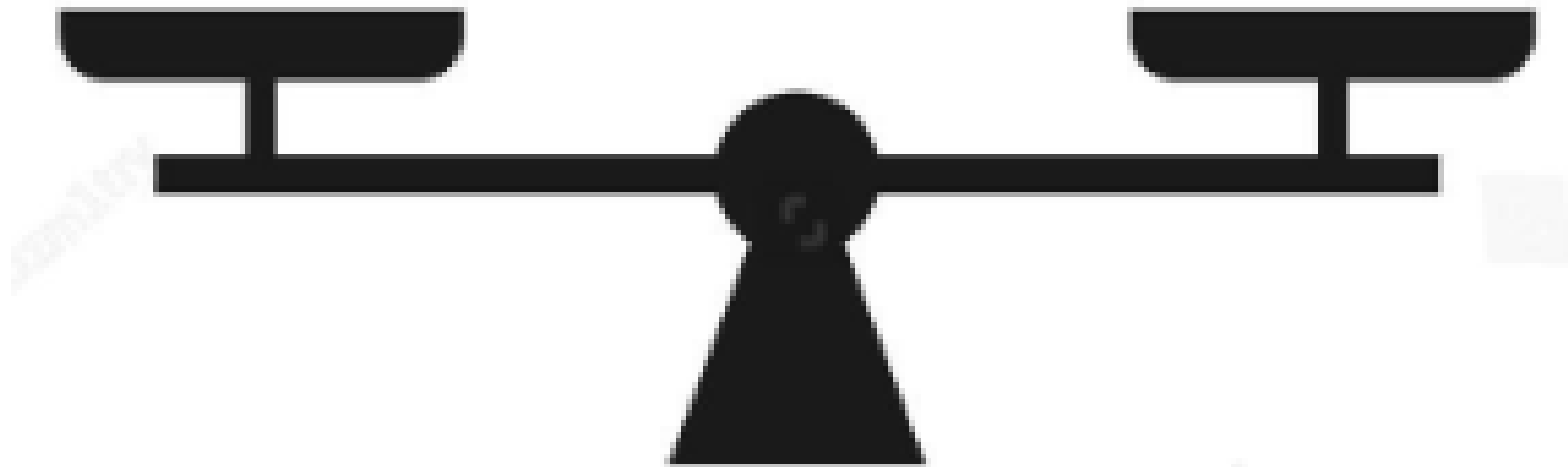
THAT BY ALL MEANS I MIGHT SAVE SOME.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22

Balance to Enculturation

"Being all
things to all
men"

Biblical Truth



To the thief,
I became a thief?



"Being all things to all men"

- What this does **NOT** mean is that we are to compromise with the world in order to fit in
- Some have used Paul's statement "I have become all things to all men" as an excuse to live worldly lives
- But Paul never compromised God's moral standards set forth in Scripture
 - Rather, he was willing to forgo **traditions** and familiar **comforts** in order to reach any audience, Jewish or non-Jewish



Balance to Enculturation

Biblical Truth



"Being all
things to all
men"

Balance to Enculturation

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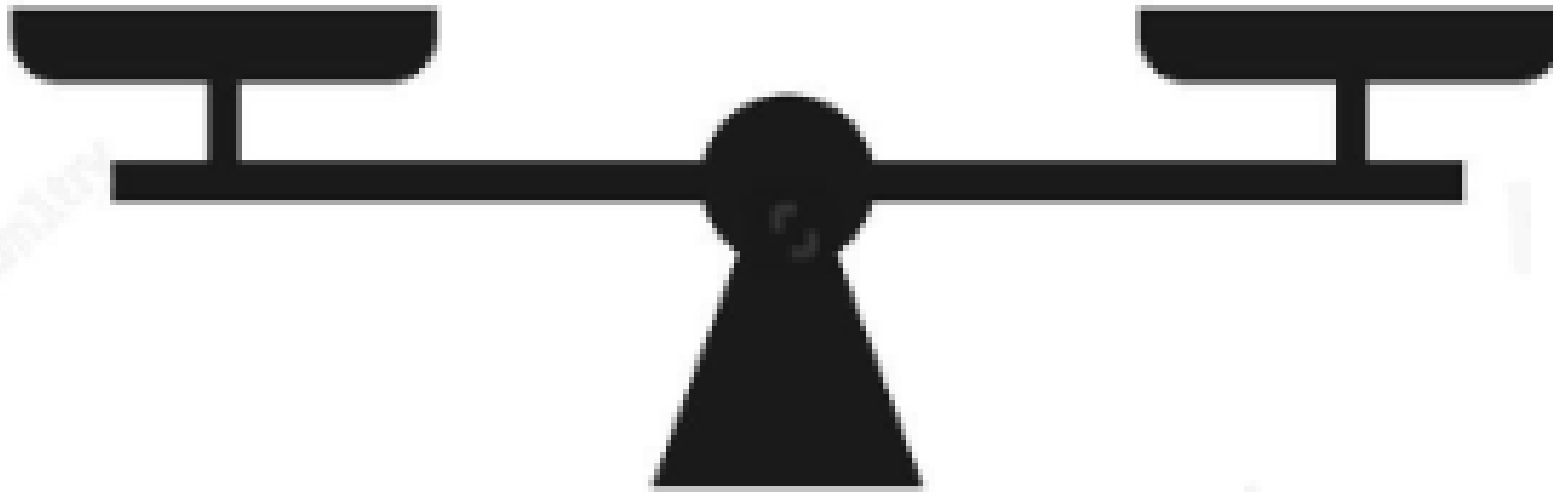


"Being all things to all men"

Balance to Enculturation

Biblical Truth

"Being all things to all men"



1 Corinthians 9:19-23

- "19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;
- 20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;
- 21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;
- 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.
- 23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you."

Key Motivation for Paul - *Syn-koinoneia*

- "...for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you."
 - συγκοινωνός
 - Syn-koinoneia
 - Joint-fellowship

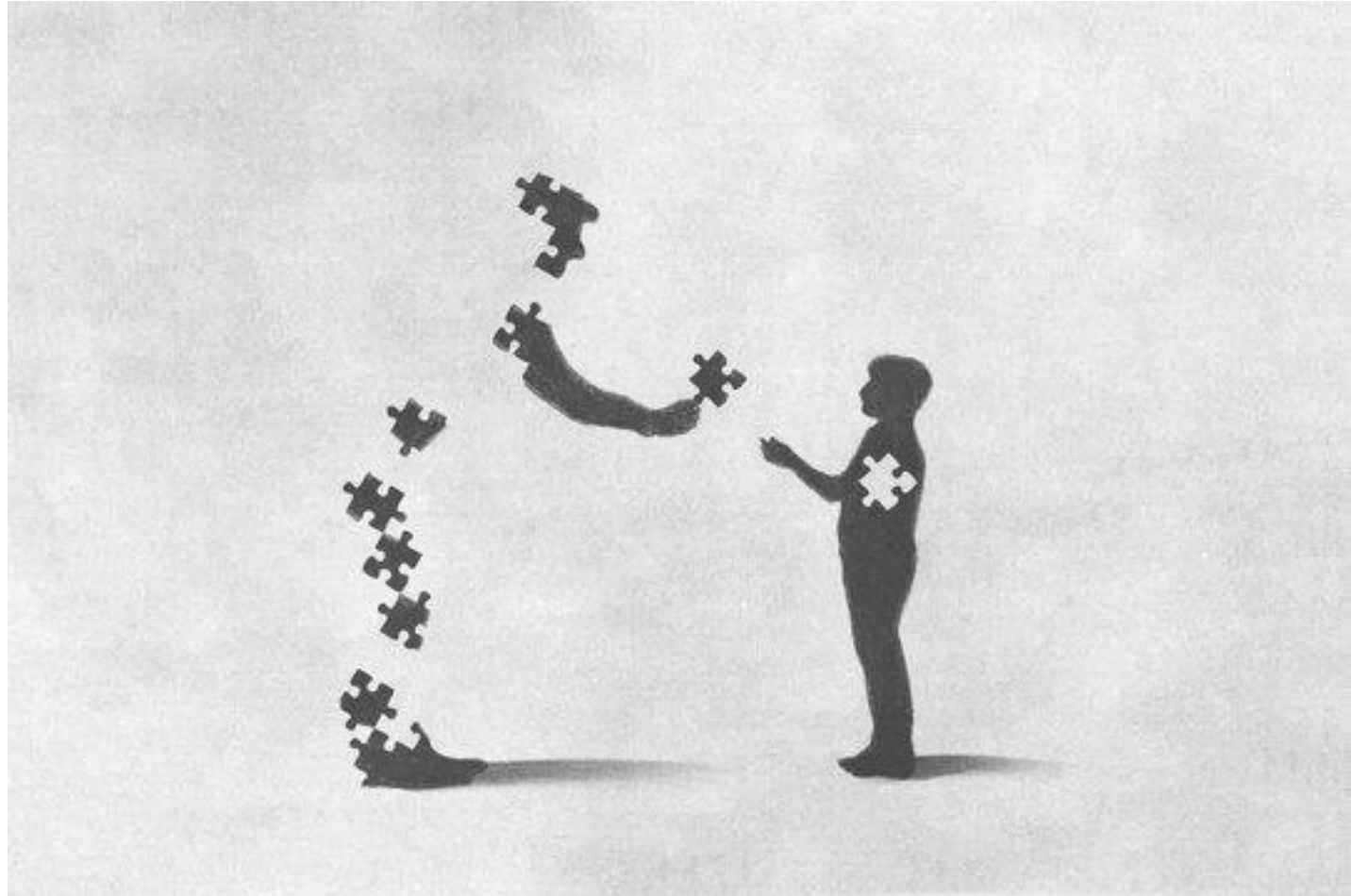


Key Motivation for Paul - *Syn-koinoneia*

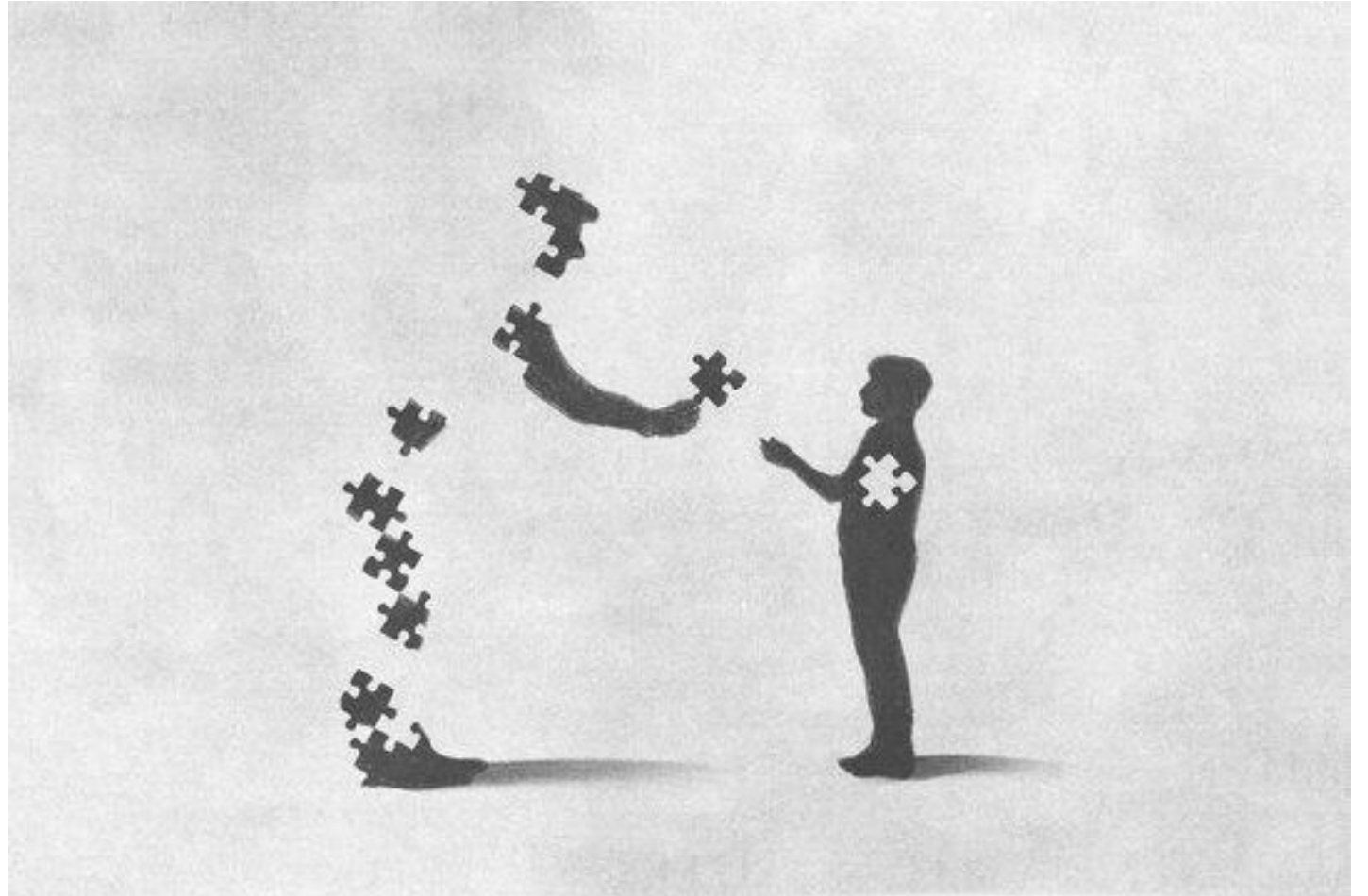
- "...for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you."
 - συγκοινωνός
 - Syn-koinoneia
 - Joint-fellowship
- The blessings
 - Passion of my life not to enjoy that alone
 - Passion of my life to share the blessings
 - For other people to find Christ and enjoy the blessings too



What rights do
we sacrifice in love
for our fellow believers?



What rights do
we sacrifice in love
for our fellow believers?



Liberty:

- To Build by withholding our rights
- To Stumble by exercising our rights













A close-up photograph of a person's hands, one palm up and one palm down, holding a white heart-shaped object. A small white flower is tucked into the palm of the hand holding the heart. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown color.

Look for ways

to serve

others.

The Gospel and Paul's Rights

Paul had Rights (v. 1-14)

Paul had Liberty (v.15-23)

- Liberty to exercise his rights
- Liberty to sacrifice his rights

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The Gospel guided the use of Paul's Liberty (v. 24-27)

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- "24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.
- 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.
- 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.
- 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

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Paul is Fighting His Own Body

- v. 27 - "But I discipline my body and **bring it into subjection**, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."
- Keep it under control
- **Hit under the eye**



Knock out blow to the body to put
it under control of the Gospel



Knock out blow to the body to put
it under control of the Gospel





What guides us to correctly exercise our rights?

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

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- 25 And everyone who competes for the **prize** is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable **crown**, but we for an imperishable **crown**.
- 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.
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What was Paul's Prize?

- v. 12 - "If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. "
- v. 16 - "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"
- v. 23 - "Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you."



What was Paul's Prize?

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What is the
Gospel?

Gospel of Christ

- "We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." - Timothy Keller



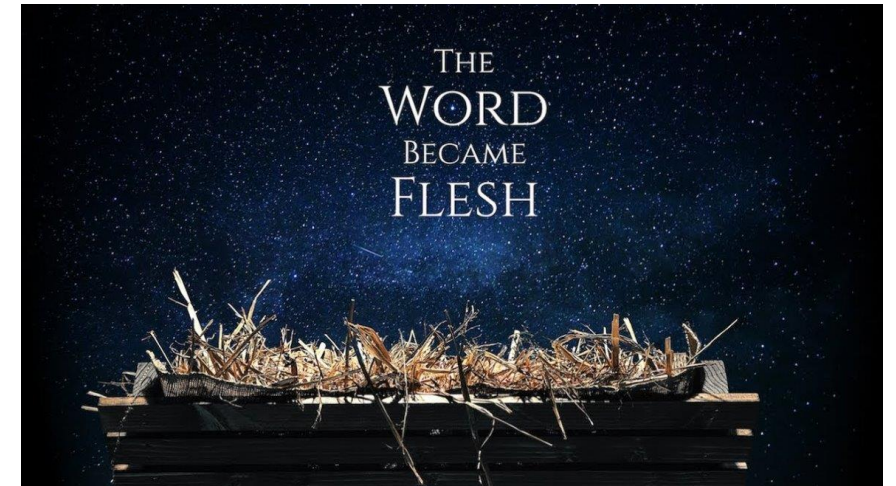
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Gospel of Christ

- John 1:14 - "And the Word **became flesh** and **dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."
- When the Lord Jesus Christ came, he became a human being
- To the human beings, he became a human being, that He might win them



The Lord Jesus Sacrificed His Rights

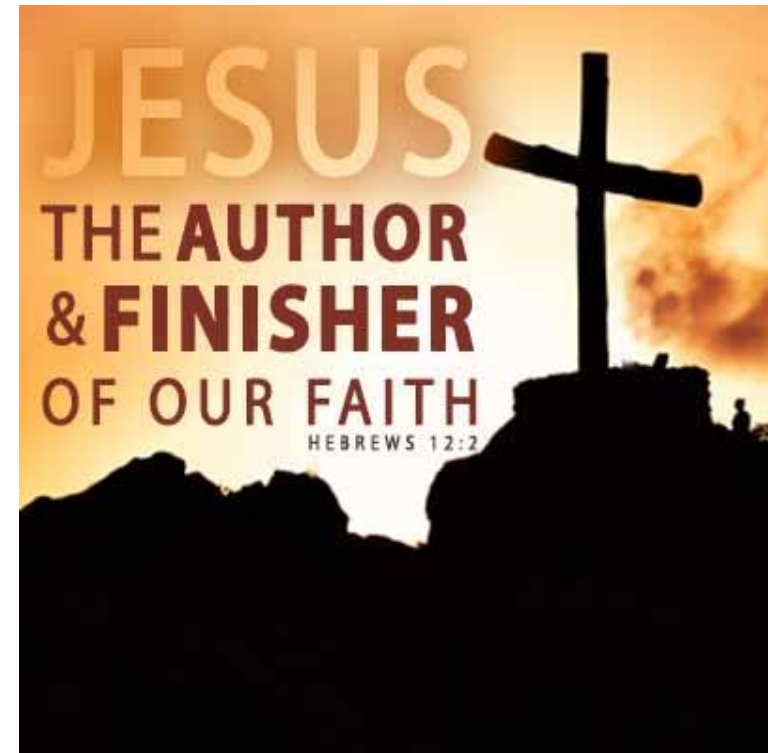
Phil. 2:5-8

- "5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
- 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
- 7 but **made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.
- 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."



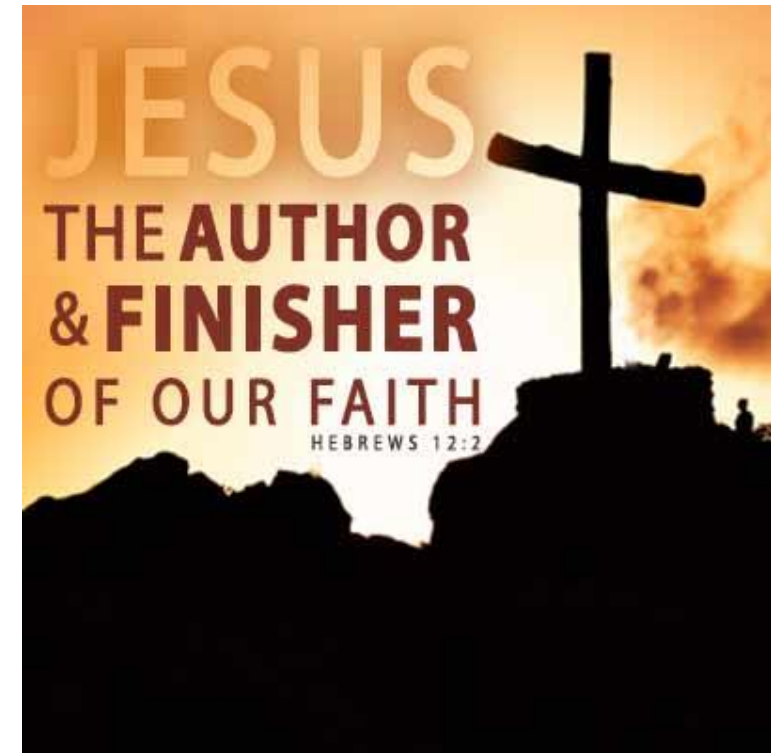
Who for the Joy Set Before Him

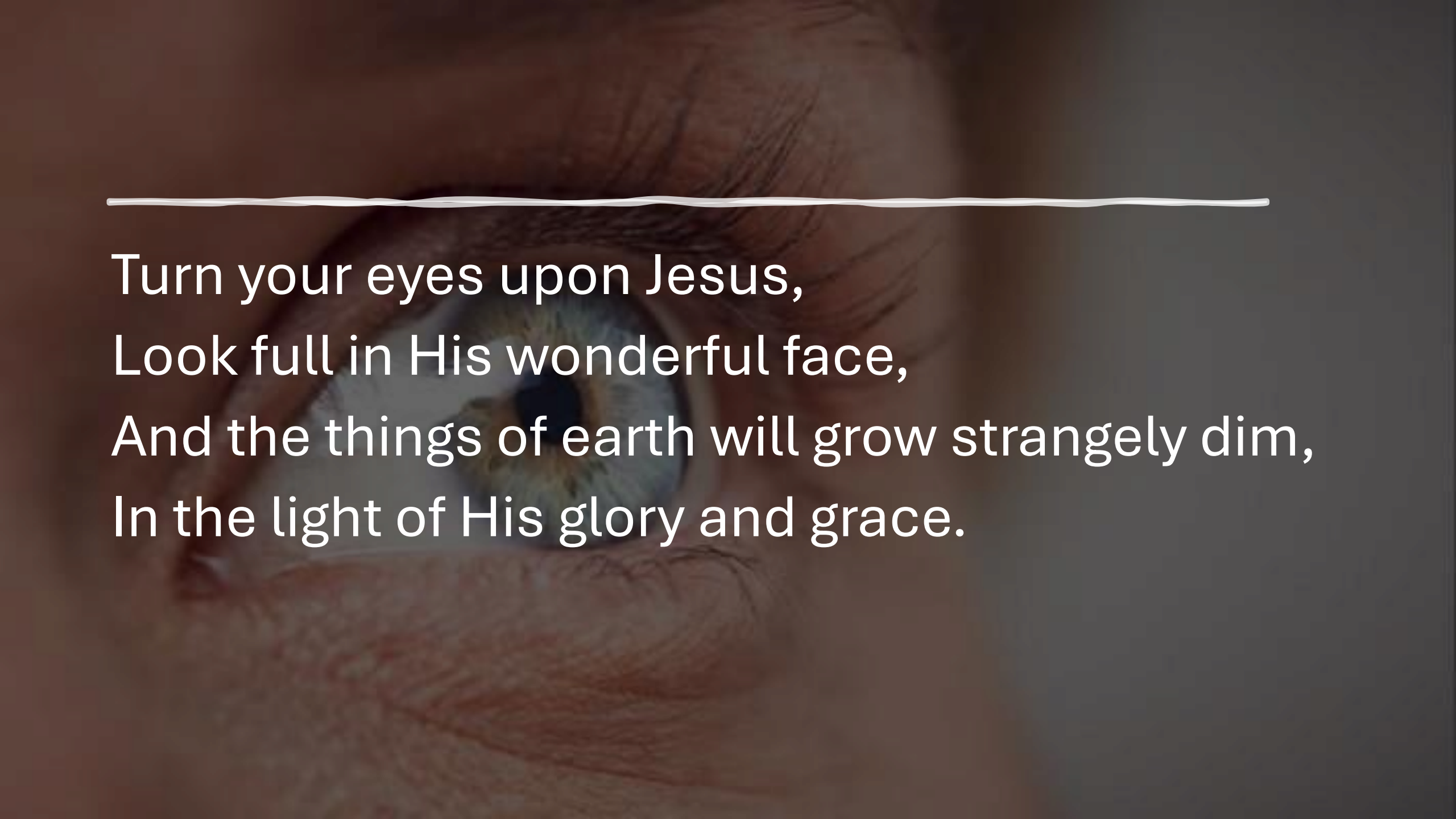
- Hebrews 12:2 – "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who **for the joy that was set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."



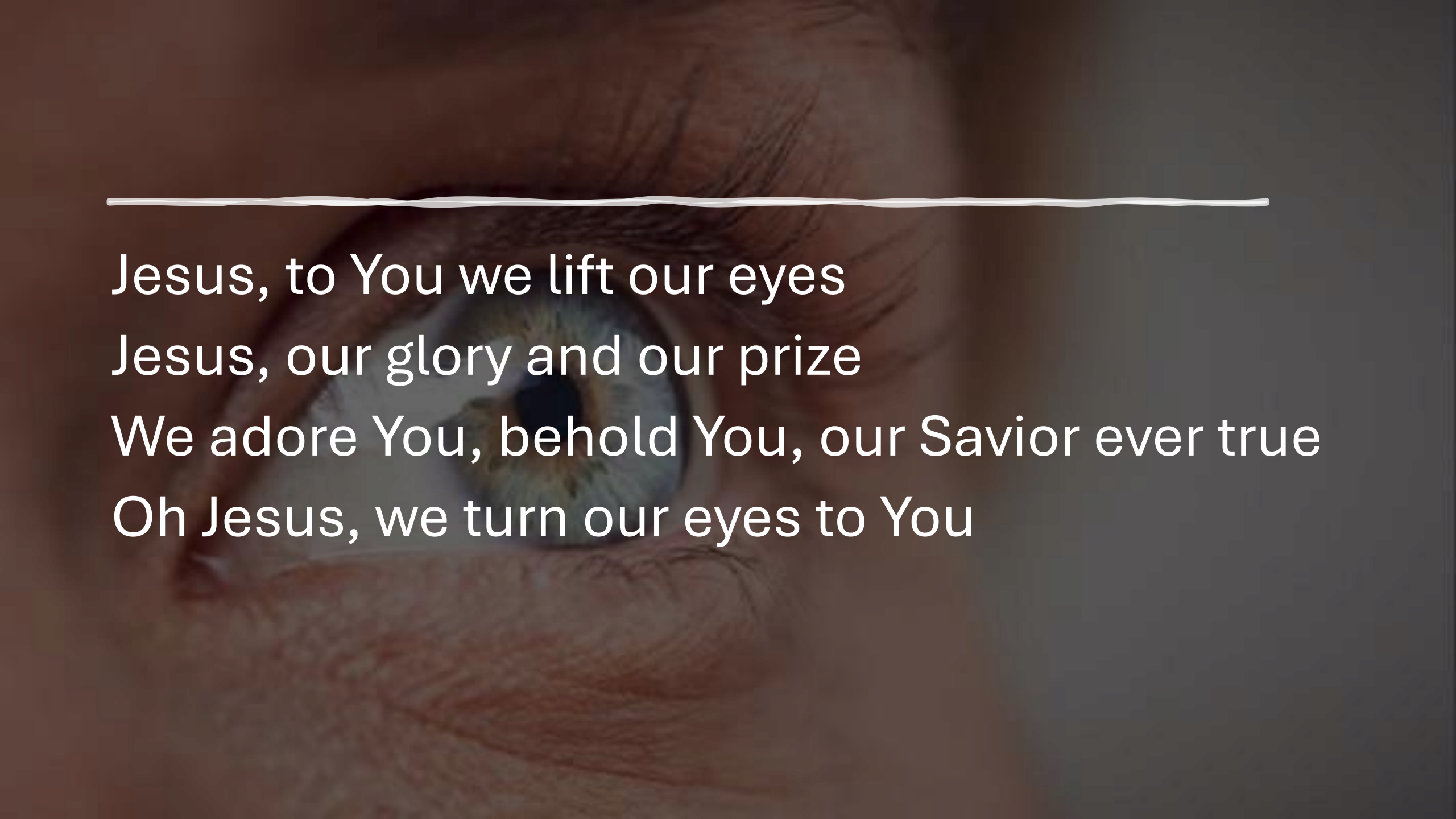
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- What was His joy?
- What was His prize?





Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.



Jesus, to You we lift our eyes

Jesus, our glory and our prize

We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true

Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You

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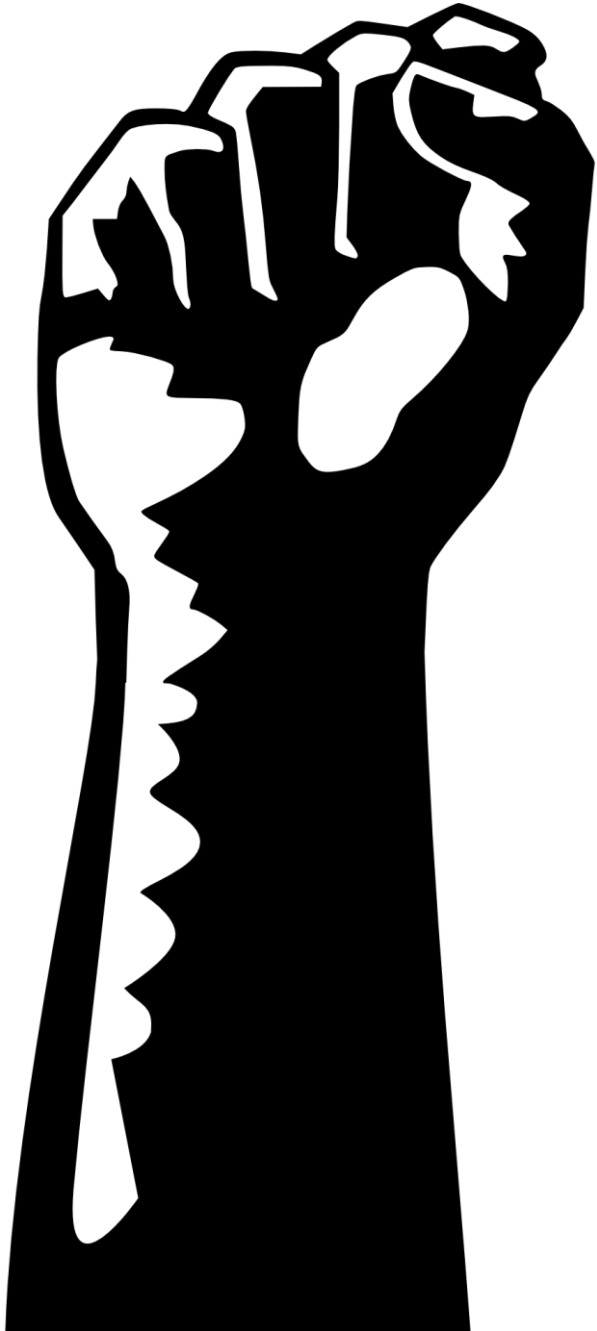
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The Gospel and Our Rights

1 Corinthians 9

