
The Freedom of Grace

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Corinth*



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Telling the Good News does not give me any reason for bragging. Telling the Good News is my duty—something I must do. And how terrible it will be for me if I do not tell the Good News. If I preach because it is my own choice, I have a reward. But if I preach and it is not my choice to do so, I am only doing the duty that was given to me.

So what reward do I get? This is my reward:
when I tell the Good News I can offer it
freely. I do not use my full rights in my work
of preaching the Good News.

I am free and belong to no one.

But I make myself a slave to all people to win as many as I can. To the Jews I became like a Jew to win the Jews. I myself am not ruled by the law. But to those who are ruled by the law I became like a person who is ruled by the law. I did this to win those who are ruled by the law.

To those who are without the law I became like a person who is without the law. I did this to win those people who are without the law.

(But really, I am not without God's law—I am ruled by Christ's law.) To those who are weak, I became weak so I could win the weak.

I have become all things to all people so I
could save some of them in any way possible.
I do all this because of the Good News and
so I can share in its blessings.

-1 Corinthians 9:16-23

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, a people who are God's
own possession. You have become this
people so you may speak of the wonderful
acts of the One Who called you out of
darkness into his amazing light.

Once you weren't a people, but now you are
God's people. Once you hadn't received
mercy, but now you have received mercy.

-1 Peter 2:9-10

I was beaten with rods three times.
I was stoned once. I was shipwrecked
three times. I spent a day and a night on the
open sea. I've been on many journeys.
I faced dangers from rivers, robbers, my
people, and Gentiles. I faced dangers in
the city, in the desert, on the sea, and
from false brothers and sisters.

-2 Corinthians 11:25-26

Now may the God of peace, Who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip us in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

–Hebrews 13:20-21

