


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Paul's Freedom

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

Q1. Paul states that he is "free". What is a "slave"? Why might Paul want to be a "slave to everyone"?

Slave defined?

Slave to all?

Q2. "To win as many as possible": in this context to what does "many" refer: people, things, gentiles, unbelievers, or something else? And "win" the many to what?

Many?


Win?

Q3. How does making "myself a slave to everyone" win Believers?

Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Day 2

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²⁰To 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. ²¹To 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. ²²To 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.

Q4. Was Paul telling us that we should not be ourselves?


Q5. If we, who believe, follow Paul's suggestions, how should we act? Amongst Believers? Amongst pagans?

Believers:

Pagans (unbelievers):

Q6. What was Paul's ultimate goal? And should his goal be our goal?

Day 3

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²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Q7. What is the Gospel to which Paul refers?


Q8. What are the blessings of the Gospel?

Q9. Paul is a Believer in the saving grace of our Lord Jesus. Why did Paul write, “I do all this . . . [to] share in its blessings”? Doesn’t belief in Jesus ensure our eternal salvation?

Why did Paul write?

Ephesians 1:13-14


¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession -- to the praise of his glory.

 “that I may share in its blessings”: meaning either the fruit of the Gospel, the conversion and salvation of sinners, which would be matter of joy both to him and them; or the blessings of grace and eternal life, which the Gospel reveals and promises, which he desired to enjoy in common with others, not only with the Corinthians, for the word "you" is not in the original text, but with Jews and Gentiles; with men of all sorts, who may be gained over to Christ, and saved by him, through the ministry of the word. [©Exposition of the Entire Bible by John Gill (b. 23 Nov 1697, d. 14 Oct 1771), https://biblehub.com/commentaries/1_corinthians/9-23.htm]

James 2:26


As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Day 4


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Self-discipline Requirement

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

 “The illustration . . . refers to these Isthmian games (so called from their taking place in the isthmus where Corinth stood) with which [Paul’s] readers would be familiar. These, like the other games of Greece — the Olympian, Pythian, and Nemean — included every form of athletic exercise, and stood on an entirely different footing from anything of the kind in modern times. For the Greek, these contests were great national and religious festivals. None but freemen could enter the lists, and they only after they had satisfied the appointed officers that they had for ten months undergone the necessary preliminary training. For thirty days previous to the contest the candidates had to attend the exercises at the gymnasium, and only after the fulfilment of these conditions were they allowed, when the time arrived, to contend in the sight of assembled Greece. Proclamation was made of the name and country of each competitor by a herald. The victor was crowned with a garland of pine leaves or ivy. The family of the conqueror was honoured by his victory . . . and in all future festivals the foremost seats [in the stadium] would be occupied by the heroes of former contests.” [©1878, Charles J Ellicott; Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers; https://biblehub.com/commentaries/1_corinthians/9-24.htm]

Q10. What is the “prize” to which Paul refers?

 “The prize: the bracing was the wreath given to the victor by the judges. The Christian prize is that of "the high calling of God in Jesus Christ," towards which St. Paul himself was pressing forward.” [The Pulpit Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2010 by BibleSoft, Inc. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/1_corinthians/9-24.htm]

Q11. What one characteristic is required of the person who wants to compete in present-day Olympics?


Q12. Is Paul suggesting that we should compare ourselves to the other “runners” and, if we see ourselves falling short, give up?

Q13. How should we “Run in such a way as to get the prize”?

Q14. What would Christianity look like if all, who believe in the Lord Jesus, served others (verse 19) and strove to ‘win 1st place’ (verse 24)?

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Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

Q15. Why would one “crown... not last” and the other “crown... will last forever”?

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Q16. Are Believers to enter “into strict training”? If yes, in what do Believers need training? And why?

Yes
No
What?

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Why?
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²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.

Q17. Why does Paul seem to equate his evangelism with fighting? Or running a race?

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Q18. How would you explain Paul’s comparison “like a man beating the air”?

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Q19. If Paul is not running aimlessly, he must be running with purpose. What is his purpose and is there a lesson for us?

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Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Q20. Why would Paul “beat his body”? And is he speaking literally or figuratively?

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Q21. Why is it important to Paul to make his body “my slave”?

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Q22. Again, what is the “prize”?

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Q23. Why would Paul even suggest that he might be “disqualified for the prize”?

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1 Corinthians 9:24-27

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Q24. What lesson(s) do you take away from 1st Corinthians 9:24-27?

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