

The Rights Of Gospel Workers

1Corinthians 9:1-14

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“Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.” (1Corinthians 9:13-14, ESV)

Introduction

In Matthew 10:8-10 Jesus is quoted as telling the disciples to “...heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food” (ESV). It’s interesting that even while they were told to accept no reward for the supernatural works God did through them, Christ taught them to expect food and shelter in return for their ministry of reconciliation.

1. The rights and responsibilities of Christian workers. (vv. 9:1-6)

a) What were the original rights of apostles and gospel workers?

b) Paul’s apostolic authority was questioned by some people because of how he worked.

2. Sowing spiritual things and reaping material things? (vv. 9:7-12)

a) The Law of Moses made provision for both animal and human laborers.

b) However, Paul chose not to exercise his rights in order to win the trust of the Corinthians.

3. God’s way of providing for His workers in OT and NT times. (vv. 13-14)

a) OT priests and Levites made their living through their service at the temple and altar.

b) NT gospel workers are commanded to get their living “by the gospel.”

For your prayerful study, discussion and application:

1) What are the rights of apostles and gospel workers according to 1Co9:1-6?

2) Why did Paul choose not to exercise his rights as an apostle? Was this righteous?

3) What does 1Co9:14 tell us about the Lord’s feelings about this matter?

Conclusion

The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should be able to get their living by their ministry and proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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