

0:57 Well, greetings, brethren, welcome to another Wednesday night Bible study, where together we study the scriptures line upon line, and this evening, God willing, we are going to cover chapter 9 of the letter to the Corinthians of First Corinthians.

1:14 I hope you had a wonderful and blessed festival observance.

1:18 We certainly did, and it was amazing that I spoke on the last day of unleavened bread.

1:24 And what I basically did was I gave a summary of what we have been studying together, the the 1st 7 chapters, or the 1st 6 chapters, and I commented on chapter 7, but I really gave a sermon on the 1st 6 chapters of this letter, this, this love letter from Paul to the Corinthian brethren.

1:43 And, and basically what we're gonna do in chapter 9, well, let me just say where we were in case you forgot it was great we could get together daily over the days of len bread, but what we what we saw was that the letter really began or the response to their letter really began in chapter 7, which then begged the question why the preamble of 6 chapters.

2:06 Before we get to chapter 7, we know that it has something to do with the days of unleavened bread that they were observing because he commented on that directly in chapter 5.

2:16 But then if the leaven that he was addressing in chapter 5 was so egregious, why did he take 4 chapters before getting there?

2:26 And then what we saw was, well, there was an even greater level that he was dealing with in the congregation.

2:31 It was really amongst the teachers, and it was it was the the congregation was being infected by the teachers and by their inflated sense of themselves, by their inflated egos.

2:42 And and what he needed them to do is to remove that level first, the greater Len, so that they could then come to the foundation, which is Christ.

2:51 And come to a sound and same judgment that they would all judge the same way, and that's the only way that they could then deal with the the egregious sin or or sins in chapter 5 and chapter 6, which was the incest, the lawsuits, and also the visiting of prostitutes.

3:15 So these were like significant.

3:16, sin that was in the congregation, but the greater sin was more personal, doctrinal, egotistical, getting rid of that first so that they could actually come together and be on the same page and, and, and have good, good sound biblical judgment.

3:34 Then he began answering their questions in chapter 7.

3:38 And the first question was about virgins.

3:42 Then we saw the chapter 8 was our last study where they were asking him about meat sacrifice to idols.

3:49 That's where we were.

3:50 Let me open with a word of prayer, and then we'll get into chapter 9, and then I'll just check and I'm on the road.

3:56 I think the internet should be fine, but I just want to make sure that I am coming through loudly and clearly.

4:01 Our loving heavenly Father, we come before you during these feast of weeks.

4:06 Just to thank you so much, Lord, for what you're doing in us through Christ, through the miraculous power of your Holy Spirit, through your grace and your mercy.

4:17 We thank you God that we have each other.

4:19 Thank you that we're different places in the world, but we can come together around your word, and together we're growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

4:32 Father, help us to fully understand and digest these letters.

4:38 We thank you for this very personal relationship that the apostles had with their congregations, and thank you that these letters have been preserved so that we can benefit from the personal exchanges that they had with their congregations and in particular the apostle Paul had with the Corinthians.

4:58 We praise you, Father, we thank you so much for your guidance.

5:02 We thank you so much for your light.

5:04 We thank you so much for your son, in whose name we pray.

5:07 Amen.

5:09 All right, let me just go ahead and check to see who is here.

5:12 Well, lots of people here.

5:13 Very good.

5:13 Welcome everybody.

5:14 I see Ian Palmer, Patty Milk.

5:17 Welcome, Rosebud.

5:20 Rosebud Sidfried.

5:23 Pastor Murray.

5:27 Very, very good.

5:28 Christy Romine is here, CGI Burlington, Cha Jaws, Pep Square, Donna Boanta, Judy and Chuck, JD.

5:37 Carlotta, Bruce.

5:40 Dave and Deb, Rick 4, Jeff Flamick.

5:44 Audio and video are good, excellent.

5:47 Denise is here.

5:49 Excellent, and Nate is here as well.

5:52 Wonderful.

5:52 Welcome everybody, and I know many of you don't check in, some of you can't check in.

5:57 I heard that as well, don't know how to check in, but welcome everybody.

6:01 Let's get into tonight's study.

6:05 Which is chapter 9.

6:08 This is a chapter where Paul is basically defending his right to be rewarded for his preaching, to be paid for his preaching.

6:18, let's, I want to go into chapter 9.

6:21 Let me go ahead and share my screen or the passage, but I want to go back to chapter 8 because chapter 9, again, if there were no chapter breaks, it would be easier for us to read the flow, the train of thought of Paul, going from chapter 8 to chapter 9, and, and what I would say is, As I study the apostle Paul.

6:46 If if we're ever taking a passage from Paul's writings, and we're just taking a verse, or even a even a passage.

6:56 We're probably misunderstanding him.

6:59 Just the way this man thinks, he thinks in very long chains and very long trains of thought.

7:06 And so it would be easier just to go into chapter 9 and say, OK, he's defending his right that if he's preaching the gospel, he should be rewarded for preaching the gospel, but he's not doing that.

7:16 He's he's working as a tent maker, and he's not taking what's rightfully his.

7:21 So that's fine, that makes sense.

7:23 But it really is an argument that he's making in the context of chapter 8.

7:28 So let's just pick up a couple of verses from chapter 8, so that we can then use that as context to get into chapter 9.

7:36 And he says here in verse 1, so this is, so first they were asking him about virgins, he says now concerning virgins, it's good for a man, you know, they were saying it's good for a man not to touch a woman, and so he was dealing with all of that in chapter 7.

7:50 Now he's dealing with another topic that they were asking him about chapter 8, now is touching things offered unto idols.

7:58 OK, we all have, we all have knowledge.

8:00 We all know that the idols are nothing.

8:02 This is anybody who's spent any time following Christ and understanding Christ knows there's only one God, and that's the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

8:10 So we all have this knowledge.

8:12 The problem is, knowledge puffs up.

8:16 Agape edifies.

8:18 So he's just calling them out.

8:20 Your teachers, they have knowledge and they're right.

8:24 What they lack is agape.

8:27 Then in verse 9 He warns them and he says, beware.

8:32 Lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak.

8:39 So not everybody has the knowledge that you have.

8:41 There are new converts that are offended by the life that they're trying to get out of.

8:48 And you know that an idol is nothing.

8:51 And so you're going by the cafeteria in the temple or the restaurant.

8:56 And maybe because you are doing well in society and you're a free man, and a businessman, let's say.

9:03 And you have customers that are there, or suppliers, and so you go and you have a meal and you hobnob with the the rich and the famous, and you want to be at that level, and you know that there's no problem with you eating this meat.

9:15 But a brother or sister that doesn't have this understanding, they see you do it, they do it against their conscience, and then they just ruin their conscience.

9:26 They soil their conscience, and then they end up getting involved in all other kinds of sin because I used an example of a diet, maybe somebody's on the diet and they, they fail in the diet.

9:38 They, they eat something they shouldn't have eaten.

9:41 And then it's like, well, I've already ruined my diet for the day.

9:44I might as well eat it, and then they're ordering ice cream and hamburger and eating all kinds of bad food, because it's like I I've fallen off the wagon anyway.

9:53So that's what's happening here.

9:55So then verse 13, this is the point, and this is the point of chapter 9.

10:00So we're going into chapter 9 with this is the jumping off point, and chapter 9 is just making a finer point on this point.

10:08The chapter 9 is the point of the point, right?

10:11So, he says, wherefore, if meat makes my brother to stumble.

10:20I won't eat meat, while I have every right to eat meat.

10:25But if my eating meat is gonna cause my brother to stumble, I'm out.

10:29I will not eat meat as long as the world stands, lest I cause my brother to stumble.

10:34This is agape.

10:36Yeah, your, your teachers have knowledge, they don't have this.

10:38This is agape, and this is what they need.

10:42So with that as our understanding of of Paul trying to really drive home this point, that knowledge isn't enough.

10:51And and the knowledge they have, they don't even know what they should know.

10:54They, they, if they have knowledge, they don't have knowledge the way they ought to have knowledge, because all they have is milk.

10:59But they do have knowledge.

11:01What they lack is agape.

11:03And what Paul has is this incredible love.

11:07This is really a love letter to the church.

11:11Paul has this incredible love for the Corinthian brethren, and if there's a brother among them that doesn't quite have the understanding, there's no way Paul will give up his right.

11:20He has every right to eat meat.

11:22He'll give up that right to ensure that his brother doesn't stumble.

11:27So with that as a framing or a context, we come to Chapter 9.

11:32So chapter 9 is not, he's just not kind of like, let me just talk about myself.

11:38Aren't I an apostle?

11:41Chapter 9 is just making a deeper point of what we just read in chapter 8.

11:46So now, if he has the right to eat meat, but that would cause the brothers to stumble, he's not going to eat meat.

11:53So now he's going to elaborate on that, using himself as an example, so that they can understand how they ought to behave.

12:00So he says, aren't I an apostolate?

12:03And the way the Greek, the way these 3 or 4 questions are worded in the Greek, the answer is yes.

12:12There's a way that you can word questions in Greek where you're the implication is the answer is no, and then there's ways that you can, a way you can word the Greek where the answer implied answer is, of course.

12:24So, aren't I an apostle?

12:27Of course I am.

12:29Aren't I free?

12:29Of course I am.

12:30Haven't I seen Jesus Christ our Lord?

12:32Of course I have.

12:33And are not you my work in the Lord?

12:36Of course, of course you are.

12:38So there's there's no doubt.

12:40About these questions, so.

12:42The answer to all these questions is yes.

12:44He's an apostle, he's free, he's seen the Lord Jesus, and they are his work in the Lord.

12:50He founded that congregation.

12:53Verse 2.

12:55If I be not an apostle, if I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you.

13:01He founded the Corinthian Church.

13:03So maybe there's another congregation that he didn't found, that they could say, well, we don't know if Paul's an apostle or not, but certainly, he founded the Corinthian Church, and so there's no doubt he's an apostle to them.

13:15He says earlier that he's a father to them.

13:19For the seal of my apostleship, or the proof of my apostleship, are you in the Lord.

13:24You're the proof of my apostleship.

13:28My answer to them that do examine me is this.

13:32So look at the look at the example I'm setting compared to your local teachers.

13:39And let's just, let's just unpack this.

13:43Have we not power to eat and to drink?

13:47This is the connection to chapter 8.

13:50You have the power to eat meat if you want to.

13:54It's just what from what basis are you operating?

13:58Are you operating from the basis that you're superior because you have knowledge and therefore you'll go ahead and eat the meat?

14:05Or are you operating from the basis that eating the meat could cause a brother to stumble, and out of your love for the brother, you're going, even though you have the right to eat the meat, you're going to refrain.

14:16So now, Paul is taking this further, and he's saying, look, aren't I an apostle?

14:21Look, look at the authority, look at the standing that I have.

14:25And even if I don't have this level of standing in other congregations, there's no doubt I have this standing with you, Corinthians.

14:33So let's compare.

14:35Don't we have the power to eat and to drink?

14:39So I was just talking to you specifically about meat sacrifice to idols, but let's take it further.

14:44Don't we have the power to eat and to drink?

14:46And what he means here is, shouldn't you be paying for our food?

14:51If we come and make this effort to preach among you, isn't it all right to be fed by you?

14:58And and this he's he's really quoting the Lord, who says in Luke 10.

15:04We studied Luke.

15:05It's in the archive, but in Luke 10 and 7.

15:08Paul Paul is quote is referring to this instruction from Christ when he sent the disciples out.

15:16And he said, in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give, you're preaching the gospel, they will finance you.

15:24You don't have to worry about that.

15:26They will finance you.

15:28Eating and drinking such things as they give.

15:30Why?

15:31Because the laborer is worthy of his hire.

15:35You don't, you're not a slave that just they can just work you to the bone.

15:39If you work, and this is based on the Torah, if you work, you should be paid.

15:45So preaching the gospel is work.

15:48And so go ahead and start, go out there preaching the gospel, and you will be accommodated because the laborer is worthy of his hire, and that's what Paul is saying.

15:58Don't don't we have a right to eat and drink?

16:00aren't we laboring in the Lord?

16:03So that's his right.

16:05And so in 1 Timothy 5, this is now Paul teaching Timothy.

16:11He says, let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor.

16:18And this double honor doesn't just mean, you know, showing them respect, which is important, it means they're they're worth, they're worthy of being paid.

16:30They're worthy of being paid for their labor, and double what you might pay others.

16:35So he says, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.

16:40So this is the it's spiritual work, but he's saying the elders should be financed for their work.

16:48For the scripture says, and now he quotes the Torah, you shall not muzzle the ox that treads out the corn.

16:56And the laborer is worthy of his reward.

16:59So as you're working this beast in the field.

17:03You could muzzle him so that he just works.

17:07Because you don't want him, maybe you don't want him eating your crop.

17:11But the Torah says you can't do that.

17:13That's cruelty.

17:15If you are working the ox, do not muzzle the ox.

17:19Let him eat whatever he is in front of him as he's hungry, because he's worthy of this, because he's doing labor.

17:26And so that's the principle that Paul is quoting and teaching Timothy.

17:32Back to 1 Corinthians 10:55.

17:35So now he's making this argument.

17:38Don't we have power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles?

17:43So this sister wife better translation would be, then we have the power to bring our believing wives with us.

17:51 So if we're, if we're preaching the gospel, shouldn't we be able to bring our believing wives and shouldn't they also be financed and looked after and accommodated?

18:01 Or do we have to leave our wives behind and then work for nothing?

18:07 When we're doing this heavy lifting of preaching the gospel, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord and and Cephas or Peter, or is it only Barnabas and I that do not have the power to stop working?

18:21 So is it only Barnabas and I who are preaching the gospel, and then also have to have a secular job, because we can't be there's no, it's not, it's not fair for us to ask to be accommodated.

18:34 Even though him and Barnabas are doing the work on the side, he's saying they have the right not to do that work.

18:42 If they're preaching the gospel, they don't have the moonlight as well.

18:47 And then he really drives the point home.

18:49 Again, the argument he's making is, I have the right to take money from you, for my lodging and for my food.

18:57 This is the argument that he's making.

18:58 So yes, we're speaking about meat offered to idols, and you have the right to eat that.

19:03 Well, I have the right to eat from you.

19:06 And he's just making this argument further.

19:08 Who goes to warfare any time at his own expense?

19:13 So there's some sort of a battle, and we've been drafted into the into the military and we have to go to war.

19:20 Isn't all of our expenses looked after, here are your clothes, here's your food, here's your shelter.

19:26 You're going to war, or is it that we, I go to war, but I have to finance the whole war myself, so I have to defend my country, but I also have to pay my pay to defend my country?

19:36 No, he's saying whoever goes to war, it's financed.

19:40 Because of the sacrifice that he's making.

19:44 Who plants a vineyard and doesn't eat from the fruit thereof?

19:49 Nobody does it.

19:49 In fact, you plant the vineyard expecting the fruit.

19:53 Or who feeds a flock and eats not of the milk of the flock.

19:58 And you could even be maybe a child out there, looking after the flock and and while you're milking the cows or the sheep, you, you take some of the milk yourself, you're thirsty.

20:07 Who, who doesn't expect this is just natural order of things.

20:11 So, going back to the Torah.

20:14 Deuteronomy 20 and 6, it's even this is even dealing with the military.

20:19 What man is he that has planted a vineyard and has not yet eaten of it?

20:24 This this is just common sense.

20:27 You planted the vineyard, you expect to eat from it.

20:30 Let him also go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man eat of it.

20:35 So if there's a young man, he's married, he's just set up his home, make sure he benefits from the investment that he's made in planting this vineyard.

20:44 Proverbs 27:18, Whoever keeps the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof.
20:52 So he that waits on his master shall be honored.
20:54 So this is just Paul is quoting Torah and the writings that this is just understood.
21:01 Nobody should argue with this.
21:02 Nobody should argue with this.
21:04 So he's just making the point about his right to eat from them.
21:10 So now he's going even further to make his point.
21:16 Verse 8, now he's he's taking it up a notch.
21:20 Do I say these things as a man?
21:23 Or says not the law the same also, so I've already quoted the Torah, but he's making a point.
21:27 So first he's just using these metaphors and analogies, and he's saying, am I just on a human level talking to you about this?
21:35 Let me take it up to a spiritual level, because the scripture actually supports this.
21:40 He says, for it is written now, so now he's quoting Torah, for it is written in the Torah of Moses.
21:46 You shall not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treads out the corn.
21:51 Does God take care for the oxen?
21:54 So like let's take this to a spiritual plane.
21:58 The Torah says, you mustn't muzzle the mouth of the ox when it's working.
22:05 Does the tourists say this?
22:08 Because God cares for animals.
22:11 That's really what he's saying.
22:13 Now, What he's not saying is God doesn't care about animals.
22:18 So like you know if you have our animal rights activists saying, no, you can't say that.
22:23 Of course God cares for all of his creation, but remember he's taking this up to a spiritual level.
22:29 And he's saying the Torah.
22:31 Wasn't written for the ox.
22:34 God is not trying to develop a community of oxen to offer salvation to.
22:41 The Torah was written for men, even though it's writing about an ox.
22:47 By following the Torah, yes, the ox will be looked after, but the real benefit is to the man who is looking after the ox, that the entire Torah is written to shape the man and to shape his character and to help the man's mind conform to the mind of Christ.
23:07 So the Torah is there because of God's deep concern.
23:11 For mankind made in his image and likeness.
23:15 So this is what he's saying, like, let's go to the Torah.
23:17 The Torah wasn't written for the aux.
23:19 The Torah was written for Israel.
23:24 Here it is that he's quoting in Deuteronomy 25 and verse 4, you shall not muzzle the ox when he treads out the corn.
23:31 This wasn't written for the ox.
23:33 This was written for the man, and as men learned to obey the laws of the Torah, they developed godly character.

23:42 So this is a is a an instruction for Israel to develop godly character.

23:50 And what Paul is really saying to Corinth is if I come and I'm preaching, or anybody comes and they're preaching among you.

24:00 You're to take care of them.

24:02 Because that's gonna shape your character.

24:05 To realize nothing is free.

24:08 There's heavy lifting involved.

24:11 Calories are being burnt and spent for you.

24:15 So it's good for you to acknowledge the effort.

24:19 And to demonstrate gratitude, that is good for you.

24:22 That's what Paul is telling them.

24:25 He says in verse 10, Or says he it altogether for our sakes, isn't it in the Torah for the sake of Israel, for the sake of mankind?

24:35 It's not for the sake of the auks.

24:38 There's all kinds of instructions about how to deal with animals and animal falls in the ditch, how to deal with your neighbor, how to deal with your wife, how to deal with your family, how to deal with your father, your parents, your grandparents, all of these instructions in the Torah are to make us into godly beings.

24:56 That's what he's saying.

24:58 For our sakes, no doubt this is written.

25:01 It's not written for the ox.

25:03 It's written for our sakes that he that plows should plow in hope.

25:09 And he that thrushes in hope should be partaker of his hope.

25:14 This is written for our sake.

25:16 That this is God's economy.

25:18 This is how the economy should work.

25:23 And so we quoted that already, verse 11.

25:26 If we, so now he's really coming, now, now he's landing the plane, now he's landing the plane.

25:32 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, so we come, we're preaching, we're doing the work, we're showing you God's way.

25:39 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we reap your carnal things?

25:47 And clearly, this cannot be an abusive relationship, so you see some of these I was gonna say fake.

25:57 I am gonna say fake fake Christians, fake Christian ministries.

26:02 That they're milking the brethren there or the milking their their flocks.

26:07 And they're in Royals Royces and staying in five-star hotels, traveling the world in private planes and expensive clothes and jewelry, and their whole families looked after, and the people financing that are poor people.

26:25 They got a lot of them.

26:27 And they've got them believing that they have to keep giving and giving and giving.

26:31 So clearly, that's not what Paul is talking about.

26:35 He's just saying what Christ said, Go and be your accommodation will be looked after.

26:41 And these men are very humble men, but they're saying this is how God's economy works.

26:46Should be, you should expect this.

26:48Again, the point he's making is that he has the right to take from them.

26:54If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather?

26:59Paul founded this congregation.

27:01He's saying, if you have teachers and you're looking after them, how much more should you be looking after me?

27:08And Barnabas.

27:09Nevertheless, And this is now, now he's really landing the page.

27:14We have every right.

27:17Just as you have every right to eat meat sacrificed idols, we have every right to take meat from you.

27:25Nevertheless, we have not used this power.

27:29But suffer all things we, we, we.

27:32are impoverished.

27:34And we would rather be impoverished.

27:37And the fact that we've been hungry for the last 3 days and haven't eaten, but we still show up on Sabbath, and we preach, and we don't tell you that we haven't eaten, and we take nothing from you.

27:49This is what Paul is saying.

27:50Now he's landing the plane.

27:52Nevertheless, we've not used this power, but we suffer all things.

27:57Lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

28:00This is the point.

28:03This is the point.

28:04So we, we have nowhere to stay.

28:06We're being persecuted, we're being hunted, we have enemies, and we could ask, hey, could you put us up for a night?

28:12We don't.

28:12We don't dare ask you anything.

28:14We'll go ahead and we'll sleep on the street with one eye open in case we get killed overnight.

28:20We haven't eaten for a few days.

28:21We'll show up on Sabbath and we'll preach, and we won't tell you anything about our suffering.

28:26Even though we have the right to take from you, but I absolutely will take nothing from you.

28:33Lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

28:36We're gonna see when we get into 2 Corinthians, there are some false teachers, there are false apostles, and they're trying to position themselves as and competing with Paul.

28:45And Paul is very shrewd.

28:48And he, you know, he's playing chess, they're playing checkers.

28:52He doesn't want to take anything from the Corinthian brethren to set the example.

28:57And to show that he is operating from a deep place of love.

29:01 And he's and his example is putting a spotlight on the others, who are fleecing them, who are doing it for money.

29:08 And if you don't, they're coin operated, you stop putting the coin in the vending machine, they stop preaching.

29:14 So he's being very, very careful and thinking longer term, that even though he has the right to be fed by them, he has the right to eat meat from them.

29:24 He would rather he would rather be a vegetarian than offend a weak brother.

29:29 And he would rather not eat anything.

29:32 Then cause the Corinthian brethren to stumble.

29:35 He's got, there's there's a big effort required to get them on the right track, and he doesn't want any criticism downstream that could somehow cause them to fail.

29:45 So even though he has the right to take from them, he's giving up his right, and he's using this as an example.

29:53 Of why they should be willing to give up their right to eat meat sacrificed to idols.

29:58 So he allows, he allows all of this suffering, he permits this suffering, lest he should cause his brother to stumble.

30:06 Lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

30:07 That's the higher order.

30:09 That's where the agape is.

30:12 Do you not know that they which minister about again, remember he's shifting, so he say, am I just talking as a man, or is there is there a spiritual reality to this?

30:22 And for the spiritual reality then goes into the Torah, he's still in this spiritual reality phase of the argument.

30:29 Don't you know?

30:30 And I I should count how many times he says this in Corinth.

30:33 Don't you know you're so full of knowledge, don't you know?

30:37 Don't you know?

30:38 That they which minister about holy things, live off the things of the temple.

30:44 This is how God's economy works.

30:46 Didn't you know this?

30:49 And they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar.

30:53 So people are coming, they're bringing their sacrifices, and these people are the Levites are accommodating this and the priests are working with this.

31:01 Don't they actually eat participate in the eating of these meals?

31:06 Leviticus 6:16.

31:08 God's instructions to Aaron or to Moses about Aaron, and the remainder thereof shall Aaron and his sons eat.

31:15 These are their they're attending to the sacrifices.

31:18 And the way God's economy works for these priests as they're attending to the priesthood, this is how they're fed.

31:24 The remainder thereof shall Aaron and his sons eat with unleavened bread shall it be eaten in the holy place, in the court of the tabernacle of the congregation shall he eat it.

31:33 So we could make another point here about unleavened bread, but the point that I wanted to show here is the that the point that Paul is making.

31:40 That those who minister at the altar partake of what is sacrificed at the altar.
31:46 So verse 14 chapter 9.
31:48 Even so, in the same way, the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live off the gospel.
31:57 So, so what we see the pattern that was established or the the economic pattern that was established in the Torah with ancient Israel, God uses that same pattern for the preaching of the gospel.
32:11 This is how the gospel.
32:12 This this is how the gospel, the preaching the gospel will be financed.
32:17 Again going back to the Torah, chapter 7 verse 32, and the right shoulder shall you give unto the priest for a heave offering of the sacrifices of your peace offerings.
32:28 So you're bringing your peace offerings, make sure the priesthood is is looked after.
32:32 This is how the economy works.
32:34 Chapter 10 of Leviticus, verse 14.
32:36 And the wave breast and the heaved shoulder shall you eat in a clean place.
32:40 You and your sons talking to Aaron, and your daughters with you, for they, this is your due.
32:47 This is your right, and your son's due, which are given out of the sacrifices of the peace offerings of the children of Israel.
32:55 So that's how the economy works.
32:58 And, and he says to them, don't you know?
33:01 Meaning, of course you do.
33:03 Meaning, they were very familiar with the teachings, cause remember, these are Gentiles grafted in.
33:11 So they'd be very familiar with the teachings of the Torah.
33:14 Now in Galatians 6 and verse 6, even to the Galatians, he's saying the same thing.
33:20 Let him that is taught in the word.
33:23 That's the student, the disciple, communicate unto him that teaches in all good things.
33:29 In other words, if you're a disciple and you're benefiting from the word, make sure you contribute to the teacher.
33:37 That's that's really what that is saying.
33:40 Verse 15.
33:43 1 Corinthians 9:15.
33:47 Now, having made having made his point.
33:51 About how much of a right he has.
33:54 To eat meat from them, that they should be financing his ministry.
33:59 Having really driven home this point.
34:02 And remember the point that he's really making is chapter 8, verse 13.
34:06 He's addressing, they asked him about meat sacrifice to idols.
34:10 He's he's elaborating on the point.
34:12 So, verse 15.
34:14 I have used none of these things.
34:16 I have every right.
34:19 And I've used none of it.

34:21I for I forgo my right as I'm pleading with you to forgo your right to eat meat sacrifice to idols.

34:28Yeah, we know the idols are nothing.

34:30You have every right to eat.

34:32But you cause a brother to stumble.

34:34I have every right to eat, but I could cause brethren to stumble.

34:39I'm not gonna give it any opportunity for criticism.

34:44But I have used none of these things.

34:47Neither have I written these things that it should be so done unto me.

34:52So, up to now I haven't done any of this.

34:55I haven't taken anything from you.

34:57I, I do plan to visit you, but I'm not writing these things, so that the next time I visit you, you're gonna make sure you, you change and you look after me.

35:06That's not what I'm doing.

35:09For it was better for me to die.

35:12Then that any man should make my glorying void.

35:16So What he's saying here is he has this very clear vision of the return of Christ.

35:27And a very clear vision of how he's going to be rewarded in Christ, when he is able to present the flock to Christ, victorious.

35:37That he they are his reward, they are his crown.

35:41And there's no way he's going to allow them to stumble or collapse in any way, so that he's compromised.

35:50When Christ returns.

35:52His vision is, I founded this congregation, I'm gonna present this congregation to the Lord.

35:58Without spot and without wrinkle, and we see in chapters 5 and 6, the level of problems that he's dealing with, but we saw in chapter 1, his absolute confidence.

36:09God has called you.

36:12He's he's infused his Holy Spirit in you.

36:15You're able to understand and respond to the gospel.

36:18He's he's giving you gifts.

36:20I see all evidence that God is at work in you.

36:23I'm gonna be a faithful shepherd.

36:25And I'm gonna allow God to work through me in you so that you can be presented to Christ.

36:32Without spot and without wrinkle as my crown and my glory.

36:35This, this is my presentation to God.

36:38And there's no way I'm gonna let anybody tamper with this now.

36:44You know, for me personally, I think Pastor Murray probably would say the same thing.

36:48I don't wanna speak for him, but I think he would say the same thing.

36:53We are tent makers like Paul.

36:56We don't take anything.

36:58To do this labor, we're not on salary.

37:01And I wouldn't have it any other way.

37:04Because I don't want to be on salary.

37:07 And then have somebody say to me, you have to preach this.
37:11 And I'm looking at thinking like, but this doesn't make any sense.
37:13 That's not what the Bible is saying.
37:15 Well, you better preach it or we'll take your salary from you.
37:17 And now I'm in a position where, well, what am I gonna do?
37:21 If they, if they fire me, what I do I flip burgers at McDonald's?
37:26 Well, I make sure that I'm able to look after my family.
37:30 So that I have the freedom to preach what I see the the Bible saying.
37:35 And I'd rather die.
37:37 Then be in a position where I'm told what to preach, even I don't, I don't believe it.
37:43 And Pastor Murray, I'm sure you feel the same way.
37:46 So, and and and the thing is, Paul respects the fact that men should be paid for their work, and I respect the fact that the ministry should be paid.
37:57 If anything, I would say that ministry is not paid enough.
38:00 So I would, I would be all for increasing what ministry get paid.
38:05 Just for me personally, I just, just the way I'm wired, I just, I can't be in a position.
38:12 Where I can be leaned on.
38:14 I can't, I, I just can't do it.
38:17 And I think most men, even if they're paid, would be in that same role, but then they're in a challenging spot if they have to walk away.
38:26 So he has this glory in mind, which the Corinthian brethren are his crown.
38:33 And he'd rather die than cause the brethren to fall.
38:38 Here in Acts 20.
38:40 And verse 22, just on this point.
38:43 He says, and now he's talking to the Ephesian brethren, and now behold, the elders, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem.
38:52 Not knowing the things that shall befall me there, except that the Holy Spirit witnesses in every city that I go to, saying that bonds and afflictions are waiting for me in Jerusalem, and yet I'm still gonna go, this is like Christ saying, I, I have to get to Jerusalem.
39:10 It cannot be that a prophet dies outside of Jerusalem.
39:13 Here, all the Holy Spirit is warning him, you can't, you know, don't go to Jerusalem, you'll be beaten, you'll be stoned, you, you could be killed, and he's saying, I have to go.
39:23 None of these things move me.
39:25 Everybody saying, don't go, don't go, none of these things move move me, neither do I count my life dear unto myself.
39:33 So that I might finish my course with joy.
39:35 He's looking at the finish line.
39:38 And the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel.
39:44 Of the grace of God.
39:45 He's just really driven to preach this gospel.
39:50 and the cost is nothing to him.
39:53 The personal cost is nothing to him.
39:56 He's so fixated on the reward.
40:00 For preaching this gospel faithfully.

40:03Back to 1 Corinthians 9:16, for though I preach the gospel.

40:08I have nothing to glory of, so I'm not really putting a feather in my cap because I preach the gospel.

40:19For necessity is laid upon me.

40:23Yeah, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel.

40:28So I, I, I'm preaching the gospel because I have to.

40:32I have no choice.

40:33So I'm not really taking pride in the fact that I preach the gospel.

40:38When I'm compelled to preach the gospel, there's nothing else I can do.

40:43Here if you think of Amos, the great passage in Amos 3 and verse 8, the lion has roared, who will not fear?

40:51The Lord God has spoken, who can but prophesy?

40:56So when we see what God is doing.

40:59In the world, specifically with Israel, we have to warn.

41:04We have to preach well to me if I preach not the gospel.

41:09We have to convey this, this, this message.

41:13So when Paul receives this revelation, he's he's compelled.

41:17He has to preach this, he has to share it.

41:20Back to 1 Corinthians 9:17.

41:23For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward.

41:27So I'm happy to volunteer to do this and look forward to my reward.

41:31But if I do it against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me again.

41:36What he's really saying here is I have no choice.

41:39Even if I didn't want to do it, I would have to do it because of this revelation that I've received.

41:45The lion has roared, who can but prophesy?

41:49But I'm doing it willingly, but I'm not taking pride in the fact that I'm preaching the gospel cause I have no choice.

41:57Here, Peter says to the elders, to feed the flock of God, which is among you.

42:04Taking the oversight thereof, not by force, nobody's forcing you.

42:10Do it willingly, voluntarily.

42:12I, this is a this is a a passion project.

42:16This is a, a love ministry.

42:18Do it willingly, not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.

42:23Again, if we have this vision of bringing the brethren across the finish line, we do this willingly.

42:29Well this is a what a what an opportunity.

42:33What an opportunity.

42:35To be given this path, to be given this work, to be given this, this reward, because he said earlier in chapter 3.

42:44That every man has his work, every teacher has his work.

42:48And that work is going to be examined.

42:50And we can build on the foundation, wood and stubble.

42:55Hay or gold and silver.

42:59 And the fire is gonna come to test the work and burn it up, and or refine it.
43:04 And we'll receive our reward, but what a blessing to have this path.
43:09 And access to the reward.
43:12 That's what Peter's telling the ministry here, do this willingly.
43:15 Nobody's forcing you.
43:17 And don't do it for money.
43:19 And we'll see with the Corinthians, some of these teachers are doing it for money.
43:25 We'll see that in 2 Corinthians.
43:28 Neither as being lords over God's heritage.
43:30 Paul, Paul says to the Corinthian teachers, you've reigned as kings without us.
43:37 You're so lofty and high and mighty.
43:40 That's not the way to go.
43:42 Christ says that's that's what the rulers of this world do.
43:45 It should not be this way among my people.
43:49 Peter's telling the elders the same thing.
43:51 Don't be like kings over God's heritage.
43:56 But be examples to the flock.
43:58 So the way to lead, the way to influence, yes, we teach, but our teaching is backed up by our example.
44:05 You can examine our lives and see the gospel lived in us, and we, we're not just preaching this thing academically, but we don't believe it.
44:13 What we preach, we believe and we're doing our utmost to practice.
44:17 And so the real influence that we have is through our example.
44:22 And when the chief shepherd shall appear, meaning we're under shepherds, Paul used the term under rowers.
44:29 Here Peter is saying under shepherds, because when the chief shepherd shall appear, you shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away, and that's what Paul is laboring for.
44:41 He doesn't want the temporal reward.
44:44 He's striving for the eternal reward, and his, his crown, he says another, the brethren are his crown.
44:52 He's gonna present the brethren to Christ, and that's what he'll be rewarded for.
44:57 So this is why he's so careful not to exercise his rights.
45:02 Which might cause some to stumble over him, so he's making sure he's not doing that.
45:09 What is my reward then?
45:11 Truly that when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge.
45:19 That I don't abuse my power in the gospel.
45:22 And really by extension, what he's saying is, and neither should you.
45:28 Neither should you.
45:29 You have the knowledge.
45:31 You're right.
45:32 You do have the right to eat.
45:34 Meat sacrifice to idols.
45:35 Go ahead.
45:37 Yeah it's it's within your right.

45:39But look at my example.

45:42I have the right to take from you, and I never do.

45:45I, I work with my hands, which is considered menial labor.

45:50And maybe people are gonna look down on me, cause I'm a manual laborer, but I do that.

45:56To make sure that I have, I take nothing from you, even though it's my right.

46:00So I make sure I preach the gospel without charge.

46:05For though I be free from all men.

46:08Yet have I made myself a servant to all, that I might gain the more.

46:13So he said earlier, I think this was in Chapter 70, here it is.

46:18I quoted it.

46:18Chapter 7 verse 22.

46:20For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's free man.

46:25Likewise, he that is called being free is Christ's servant.

46:29And so Paul is certainly a free man, and though he's free from all men, yet he's made himself a slave to everyone.

46:36That he might gain the more.

46:38He's just so committed.

46:41To the finish line.

46:44Verse 20.

46:46Oh, sorry, this was chapter 7.

46:49I didn't need verse 20.

46:51Acts 21 and 23.

46:57I want that, yes.

46:59He says, oh, so what I wanted to do here.

47:02And I just, I think that.

47:07That, yeah, sorry, let me just go back here.

47:10I wanted verse 20, not of chapter 7.

47:14Give me one moment here.

47:16I'll just clean this up.

47:17I wanted chapter 7, I, I wanted chapter 20 of, not chapter 7.

47:26But Chapter 9.

47:31So right here, this should be 9:20.

47:35Chapter 9, sorry, just let me clean this up.

47:379.20, and then let's just get rid of all of this.

47:47Right, just we'll be right with you.

47:48Thanks for your patience, brethren, but I wanted this.

47:52OK.

47:53So, so he now he says, going back to verse 19, sorry, for though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant to all.

48:05That I might gain the more.

48:07I'm constantly thinking of the finish line, and so I'm free, but that's not my objective to exercise my freedom.

48:15My objective is to win souls for Christ.

48:18And so I'm going to make myself a slave, that I might gain the more.

48:23And then how does he do that?

48:25He says To the Jews I became as a Jew.

48:31That I might gain the Jews.

48:34To them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them under the law.

48:40So this is a passage that will quote a lot, but in the context, he's just showing how he's a slave, even though he's a free man.

48:49He has the right to be free, but he's made himself a slave, because he's addressing the question that was asked him in chapter 8.

48:57Do we have the right to eat meat sacrificed idols?

49:01So that's what he's addressing.

49:03So here he says, to the Jews, I became a Jew, if they're under the law, I became under the law.

49:07Look at the example here in Acts 21 and 23.

49:13where he's advised, do therefore this that we say to you.

49:17We have 4 men which have a vow of them, so they're under a Nazirite vow.

49:21Then take And purify Yourself with them.

49:28And be at charges with them.

49:30That they may shave their heads, and all may know that those things whereof they were informed concerning you are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law.

49:42So they were under an Azarite vow, these four men.

49:45Paul was also under an Azarite vow.

49:48He's to go to the temple, pay for the 4 men, close the vow, sacrifice, and then everybody will see that they're saying that these rumors.

49:58That Paul has abdicated.

50:01The the the Jewish religion and that he's violating the law, they'll realize it's just not true.

50:08So to the Jew, he's becoming as a Jew.

50:12To them that are without law, as without law.

50:16Being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ, that I might gain them that are without law.

50:24He's making the point that he's constantly empathizing and constantly trying to see how does he make sure he doesn't offend.

50:33And he says, no, I'm not gonna violate God's law, but I have to have wisdom.

50:38So I'm gonna behave a certain way with the Jew.

50:41And here, for example, with the Gentiles, but neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

50:49He wants to show the Gentiles, you don't have to be circumcised, and that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privately to spy out our liberty, which we have in Christ Jesus, that they may bring us into bondage.

51:03To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour.

51:08I defended the right of the Gentiles to not be circumcised.

51:13That the truth of the gospel might continue with you, with the Gentiles, because that that was just such a burden, the whole Acts 15 was all about that.

51:23And so to them without the law, he was, he was supporting them.

51:28Then he comes to verse 22, so now he's really this that the plane has landed.

51:34It's a long kind of winding argument that he's making.
51:38To the weak You asked me about the weak.
51:43You wanted to know, can you go ahead and eat meat, sacrifice to idols.
51:48And there are some that are weak in the faith, and they're being offended by this.
51:53Do we have to stop eating meat sacrifice to the idols?
51:56Paul says, the weak don't have your faith.
51:59If it was me, I'd be a vegetarian for the rest of my life.
52:04Then dare to hurt one of these little ones, dare to cause one of these little ones to stumble.
52:08This is serious business.
52:10So now that same week that was addressed in chapter 8, they says, OK, you have week among you.
52:17Paul says to the weak, I became as weak.
52:21That I might gain the weak, and this is how you should be thinking.
52:25I have made all things to all men that I might by all means save some.
52:31This is agape.
52:33Knowledge puffs up, agape edifies.
52:36And so he says here in verse 11, when he was writing to the Corinthian brethren answering the question, Through your knowledge shall the weak brother perish for whom Christ died.
52:50Or for the weak do you become as weak?
52:53And so look at my example.
52:56And then he says, and this I do, chapter 9 verse 23, this I do for the gospel's sake.
53:05That I might be partaker thereof with you.
53:09Yeah, I, I, I could, I'm a free man.
53:11I can do what I I have the right to do different things, but I don't do it, cause I wanna be a partaker of the gospel with you.
53:19So in a sense, yeah, in a sense he's kind of saying.
53:22You know, the, the, It's kind of interesting, his reasoning.
53:28The Corinthian teachers were so knowledgeable.
53:32And so advanced compared to the weaker new converts.
53:38And they didn't really regard them.
53:40They're like, I'll get over it, we, we, we can do this.
53:44And then what Paul is saying is, If I were to exercise my right to eat from you.
53:51Among you I would lose converts because you're weak in the faith.
53:56But because you're weak in the faith.
53:59I with, I, I do not exercise my right to eat from you.
54:03Lest I cause you to stumble.
54:05So as much as they're looking down on brethren who don't have enough faith or understanding to go ahead and eat the meat.
54:12But they don't see the beam that's in their own eye.
54:15And Paul is saying, look at my example, I don't eat from your hand.
54:20Because if I did, there are among you that don't have sufficient strength and understanding and faith that you would stumble.
54:28So therefore, I make sure you don't stumble.

54:31 Very interesting.

54:33 Then he says now verse 24, don't you know?

54:37 That they which run in a race run all.

54:41 But one receives the prize.

54:43 Not everybody who runs the race wins.

54:46 So you've got to take this seriously and keep your eye on the prize.

54:50 So run that you may obtain.

54:53 Don't take it for granted that you're going to be successful cause you're in the race.

54:58 And every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things.

55:03 This is going back to chapter 8.

55:05 He's still on that thread.

55:08 He's still on that threat.

55:10 Should you eat meat sacrificed to idols when it's causing your brother to stumble?

55:14 Have some self-control.

55:16 Every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things.

55:20 Now, they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we and incorruptible.

55:26 That's what you should be looking at.

55:31 I therefore so run.

55:32 That's that's why you see me operating the way that I do, because I have the reward in mind.

55:38 I have the finish line in mind.

55:41 So I therefore so run not as uncertainly.

55:46 And this is how I fight.

55:49 Not as one that beats the air.

55:52 But I keep my body, and again, this verse 27, this is the last verse in the chapter.

55:59 But this is the sort of verse I think in the past I would read, and I would just read it by itself.

56:05 But when we, when we read this line upon line and read everything in context, I, I see the threading.

56:11 So this is the conclusion of the question that they asked.

56:16 Is it OK to eat meat sacrificed idols?

56:19 Well, the answer to that question is, look at my example.

56:23 I keep my body and bring it under subjection, bring it into subjection.

56:29 So you're going by the, the meat in the market, and it just smells so great, you can smell the barbecue, you're hungry, and your brother's with you.

56:39 Who's weaker in the faith, and it's going to offend him, keep your body and bring it under subjection.

56:45 Don't be a slave to your passions.

56:48 Have the the finish line in mind.

56:51 I keep my body and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

57:01 Going back to chapter 8.

57:04 Knowledge puffs up.

57:05 Yes, we all have knowledge.

57:08 Yes, you, you're teaching.

57:10 But you don't have agape.

57:13 So just cause you're in the race doesn't mean you're gonna win.

57:16 And the condition that you're in right now, and the 11, the little 1 leavens the whole lump, the leaven that you're allowing to take over your congregation, don't think for a minute that you're going to be successful.

57:29 Unless you change.

57:31 And so I'm telling you, if I did not have discipline and didn't exercise.

57:37 My discipline by not exercising my rights.

57:43 I could be a castaway because I'm causing my brother to stumble.

57:47 Just like what you're doing.

57:49 In fact, if you don't change, you will be a castaway.

57:53 So that is The chapter, the 9th chapter of 1 Corinthians, and I personally found it very, very enlightening to again, read this thing in context, so that I can understand the flow of Paul's logic.

58:11 And the more I studied the apostle Paul, the more I realized we have to be very, very careful, very, very careful whenever we quote Paul, cause this, this last verse that we just looked at, it's a beautiful verse.

58:25 I could give all kinds of messages on this.

58:28 And not realize what he's actually talking about.

58:31 And what he's actually talking about is he just landed the plane.

58:34 He's talking about the question that they opened.

58:38 In verse 1 of chapter 8.

58:40 Now concerning meat sacrifice the idols, and he spent the two chapters, 8 and 9, answering that question.

58:48 So that is chapter 9.

58:49 God willing, next week, we will cover chapter 10 of 1 Corinthians, and this Sabbath, hopefully you'll be able to join us for the sermon message, which will be brought to us by Pastor Murray.

59:07 And that is going to be same.

59:11 Rumble channel.

59:13 I'm gonna go ahead and check the chat.

59:15 We'll be back to our normal, back to our normal timing.

59:19 We sort of move things around a little bit over the holy day season, the, the unleavened bread season, but we'll be back to our standard service at 1:30 Eastern time on the coming Sabbath.

59:33 I'm just gonna check and see if there's anything I have to respond to.

59:38 In the chat, let me just see, just brighten this up a little bit.

59:43 OK, great explanation.

59:44 Thanks, Jeff.

59:47 It's an honor to physically feed those who spiritually feed us.

59:50 Praise God for you.

59:51 Thank you.

59:53I know that's so my wife and I will travel and the potlucks are wonderful or the fellowship meals we should be calling them, and then also brethren will have us over in their homes and look after us.

1:00:04So it's it's wonderful to see how we are following really the Torah.

1:00:09Pastor Murray, yes, I agree, especially in this day and age, I would not want to be a paid minister.

1:00:14Yeah, so Pastor Murray's agreeing.

1:00:15I don't begrudge those who do, however, absolutely.

1:00:18Just, for me and for Pastor Murray, this is how we prefer to roll.

1:00:23The issue often is the level of lifestyle that the congregation funds paid elders in some organization.

1:00:30Paul was not expecting to have them fund a lifestyle better than theirs, but to meet his needs bare exactly.

1:00:36, Nate, I can remember my pappy talking about preaching for a salary.

1:00:43He didn't have a problem with it, but knew there was a fine line to walk between being paid to preach and being bought to be, oh wow, look at that.

1:00:51I love that saying.

1:00:53Being paid to preach or being bought to preach.

1:00:57That is mind blowing.

1:00:58That's amazing.

1:00:59Great point, great comments.

1:01:01I concur, great study.

1:01:03Thank you very much.

1:01:04I really look forward to these Bible studies.

1:01:06I do too.

1:01:06Thank you, Sister Rose.

1:01:08Wonderful study.

1:01:09Thank you, Adrian, blessings all.

1:01:10Thanks, Denise.

1:01:11Thanks once again, Judy and Chuck.

1:01:14Thank you.

1:01:14Thanks Pastor Adrian.

1:01:15Have a great night and a week ahead.

1:01:17Thank you so much, brethren.

1:01:18God bless you.

1:01:19Join us on Sabbath.

1:01:20Pastor Murray will be preaching and we'll be, going live, God willing, at 1:30 Eastern time on Saturday.

1:01:28God be praised, Jesus is Lord, God bless.