HOW TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

1 Corinthians 9:1–27

Key Verse: 9:12b

1. How and why does Paul again mention his apostleship? (1,2; cf. 1:1; 4:1,9) What rights of apostles does he mention, and why? (3–6) What illustrations does he use to support an apostle’s right to be supported financially? (7–12a,13,14)
2. Read verse 12b. Note how he repeatedly mentions not using this right (15,18). Why did Paul live this way while he was in Corinth? (2Co11:7–9; cf. 1Th2:9; 2Th3:8,9) Read verse 12b again. What does it mean to “put up with anything”? (see 13:7) In our own lives, what things might be “hindering” the gospel, and how can we overcome them?
3. What does it mean that Paul was “compelled to preach” the gospel? (16,17; 4:1,2; cf. Ro1:14) What does it mean to do it “voluntarily”? (1Pe5:2) What does Paul see as his reward, and how would this prevent the gospel from being hindered? (18)
4. What else did Paul say about his ministry, and what does it mean to “win” people? (19) What personal adjustments did he make while he was with various people, and how does this illustrate removing hindrances? (20–22) What can we learn from his words “by all possible means”? On what did Paul remain focused? (23)
5. In preaching the gospel, how did Paul describe “the prize” and the self-discipline that is necessary, and how is this related to overcoming hindrances to the gospel? (24–27)