

1 Corinthians 8:12 – 9:18

New American Standard Version

1 ^{8:12} And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding
2 their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.
3 ¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never
4 eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.
5 ^{9:1} Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus
6 our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? ² If to others I am
7 not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my
8 apostleship in the Lord. ³ My defense to those who examine
9 me is this: ⁴ Do we not have a right to eat and drink? ⁵ Do we
10 not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest
11 of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶ Or
12 do only Barnabas and I not have a right to refrain from
13 working? ⁷ Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own
14 expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of
15 it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the
16 flock? ⁸ I am not speaking these things according to human
17 judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things?
18 ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses, “YOU SHALL NOT
19 MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING.” God is not
20 concerned about oxen, is He? ¹⁰ Or is He speaking altogether
21 for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the
22 plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher *to thresh* in
23 hope of sharing *the crops*. ¹¹ If we sowed spiritual things in
24 you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ¹² If
25 others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless,
26 we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we
27 will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ. ¹³ Do you not
28 know that those who perform sacred services eat the *food* of
29 the temple, *and* those who attend regularly to the altar have
30 their share from the altar? ¹⁴ So also the Lord directed those
31 who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.
32 ¹⁵ But I have used none of these things. And I am not writing
33 these things so that it will be done so in my case; for it would
34 be better for me to die than have any man make my boast an
35 empty one. ¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to
36 boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not
37 preach the gospel. ¹⁷ For if I do this voluntarily, I have a
38 reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted
39 to me. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That, when I preach the
40 gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to
41 make full use of my right in the gospel.

*Use the suggestions on the back page as a starting point for your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application.***

Observation (What does it say?):

What words or ideas are repeated in this passage?

What words indicate Paul’s logical train of thought (“therefore, so, for, in order that” etc.)?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How would you summarize Paul’s main theme in this passage?

How does this passage relate to chapter 8 about eating or not eating meat from idols?

How do you understand verses 16-17 and the different options Paul describes? How is his reward related to his rights (v. 18)?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

What rights do you have (or think you have) that are difficult to give up? How might those rights be related to the gospel being displayed in your life?

How does Paul’s attitude fit into our culture and the protection of our rights? How might the apostle’s thinking be viewed in today’s world?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- How does Paul handle the quotation from Deuteronomy 25:4 in verse 9? What do you learn from the context of the verse in Deuteronomy? How does Paul's use relate to the inductive method we have been using?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)