

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, March 3, 2024

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-18
2. Why is the issue of authority so important to settle?
3. Paul's defense of his apostleship is built upon a series of rhetorical questions, beginning with the question, "Am I not free?" Why does Paul point to the theme of Christian liberty to defend his apostleship?
4. One of the things that bothered the church in Corinth was the fact that Paul did not receive financial support from them. Why did this bother them? Why does Paul cite the two OT passages he does (Deut.25:4; Lev.6:8-18)?
5. Next, Paul asks, "Am I not an apostle?" He then answers his own question, "Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?" Why does he point to this? What are the requirements of an apostle?
6. Are there still apostles in the church today? Why or why not?
7. Finally, Paul points to their existence as a church to defend his apostleship, saying, "Are you not my workmanship in the Lord." How does their existence as a church provide a defense of his apostleship?
8. Why did Paul make the choices he did, exercising his Christian liberty in the way he did? What was his motivation? How does this inform you in the way you should exercise your Christian liberty?
9. What practical application can you make from this text/sermon?
10. Pray!

Reading of Law: Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Prayer of Confession:

Our Father in Heaven, your name is great and greatly to be praised. As your people you tell us we are the light of the world as we are those whom you have designated to shine for you and light the way to you for others to see. Our good works are to be the very thing people see and give glory to you, but our good works are far fewer than they should be, and even when we do good works they are often done in order that those who see may give glory to us rather than you. Father, we confess that the light that comes from us is far too dim and is easily covered over by our sinful and selfish words, attitudes, and actions so that those who observe our lives don't see your light in us but see the darkness of our sinful nature which remains in our members. Moreover, we conceal our faith out of the fear of man, not wanting to be mocked or maligned for our faith by those in the world around us. Father, please forgive us. For truly we desire to shine for you so that others may be drawn to you and share in the blessing of eternal life you give to all who trust in Jesus. We thank you for hearing us, for loving us, and for receiving us as your very own through faith in Christ apart from works. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Romans 8:33-34

"Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died-- more than that, who was raised-- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."

WLC: 117

Q. 117. How is the sabbath or the Lord's day to be sanctified?

A. The sabbath or Lord's day is to be sanctified by an holy resting all the day, not only from such works as are at all times sinful, but even from such worldly employments and recreations as are on other days lawful; and making it our delight to spend the whole time (except so much of it as is to be taken up in works of necessity and mercy) in the public and private exercises of God's worship: and, to that end, we are to prepare our hearts, and with such foresight, diligence, and moderation, to dispose, and seasonably to dispatch our worldly business, that we may be the more free and fit for the duties of that day.

Ex. 20:8, 10; Ex. 16:25-28; Neh. 13:15-22; Jer. 17:21-22; Matt. 12:1-13; Isa. 58:13; Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Ps. 92 title; Isa. 66:23; Lev. 23:3; Ex. 20:8; Luke 23:54, 56; Ex. 16:22, 25-26, 29; Neh. 13:19.

OT Reading: Leviticus 6:8-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁹ "Command Aaron and his sons, saying, This is the law of the burnt offering. The burnt offering shall be on the hearth on the altar all night until the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it. ¹⁰ And the priest shall put on his linen garment and put his linen undergarment on his body, and he shall take up the ashes to which the fire has reduced the burnt offering on the altar and put them beside the altar. ¹¹ Then he shall take off his garments and put on other garments and carry the ashes outside the camp to a clean place. ¹² The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out. The priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and he shall arrange the burnt offering on it and shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. ¹³ Fire shall be kept burning on

the altar continually; it shall not go out. ¹⁴ "And this is the law of the grain offering. The sons of Aaron shall offer it before the LORD in front of the altar. ¹⁵ And one shall take from it a handful of the fine flour of the grain offering and its oil and all the frankincense that is on the grain offering and burn this as its memorial portion on the altar, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. ¹⁶ And the rest of it Aaron and his sons shall eat. It shall be eaten unleavened in a holy place. In the court of the tent of meeting they shall eat it. ¹⁷ It shall not be baked with leaven. I have given it as their portion of my food offerings. It is a thing most holy, like the sin offering and the guilt offering. ¹⁸ Every male among the children of Aaron may eat of it, as decreed forever throughout your generations, from the LORD's food offerings. Whatever touches them shall become holy."