

Welcome!



1 CORINTHIANS

SINNERS *made* SAINTS

1 Corinthians 8: 1 (ESV)

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.

Question?

How does knowledge puff
people up?

Question?

What kind of knowledge
puff people up?

1 Corinthians 8: 2 (ESV)

If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.

1 Corinthians 8: 2 (NLT)

*Anyone who claims to know
all the answers doesn't
really know very much.*

Question?

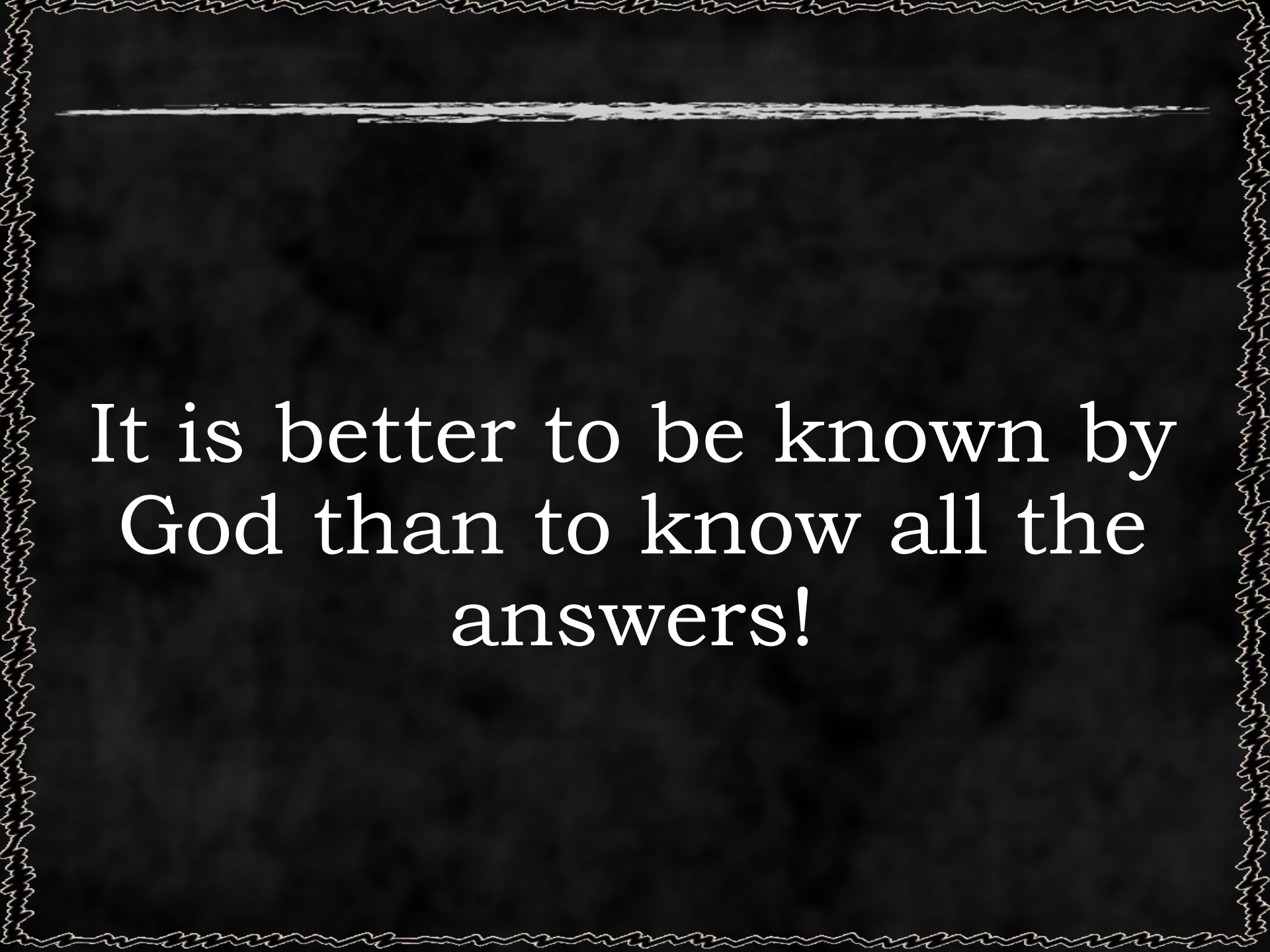
Have you ever met someone
who knows everything
about every topic you bring
up?

1 Corinthians 8: 3 (ESV)

*But if anyone loves God, he
is known by God.*

Paul is saying that man's
knowledge is of little
importance.

As Christians, God gives us
the knowledge we need to
know what to do or not to
do through the indwelling
Holy Spirit.



It is better to be known by
God than to know all the
answers!

1 Corinthians 8: 4 (ESV)

*Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that **“an idol has no real existence,”** and that **“there is no God but one.”***

Question?

What is Paul reminding us
of here?

1 Corinthians 8: 5 (ESV)

For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—

1 Corinthians 8: 6 (ESV)

*yet for us there is one God,
the Father, from whom are
all things and for whom we
exist, and one Lord, Jesus
Christ, through whom are all
things and through whom
we exist.*

1 Corinthians 8: 7 (ESV)

However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

Question?

What knowledge?

1 Corinthians 8: 7 (ESV)

However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

Background

The Greeks and Romans believed that evil spirits could enter their bodies by attaching themselves to food before it is eaten. The only way to remove the evil spirits was to sacrifice the food to a god before eating.

Background

This sacrifice would not only gain favor of the false god but would also cleanse the food from the demons attached to it.

Background

Only a portion of the food would be burned at the altar as a sacrifice, the remaining would be eaten during pagan feasts and the remaining would be sold at the market.

Background

Some in the early Church then believed if they ate food purchased at the market that could be left over from a pagan sacrifice they would be defiled so they would not buy meat thinking this would please God.

Background

In addition, many early Christians still lived in fear of angering these false gods.

This is why Paul says what he does in verse 4.

1 Corinthians 8: 4 (ESV)

*Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that **“an idol has no real existence,”** and that **“there is no God but one.”***

1 Corinthians 8: 8 (ESV)

Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.

1 Corinthians 8: 9 (ESV)

But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

Question?

What is Paul warning us
about here?

1 Corinthians 8: 10 (ESV)

For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols?

Question?

This can be a little confusing, so what is Paul saying-is it wrong or not to eat food sacrificed to idols?

1 Corinthians 8: 11 (ESV)

*And so by your knowledge
this weak person
is destroyed, the brother for
whom Christ died.*

1 Corinthians 8: 12 (ESV)

*Thus, sinning against your
brothers and wounding
their conscience when it
is weak, you sin against
Christ.*

Note that what previously
was not sinful to you has
now become sin!

1 Corinthians 8: 13 (ESV)

Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Question?

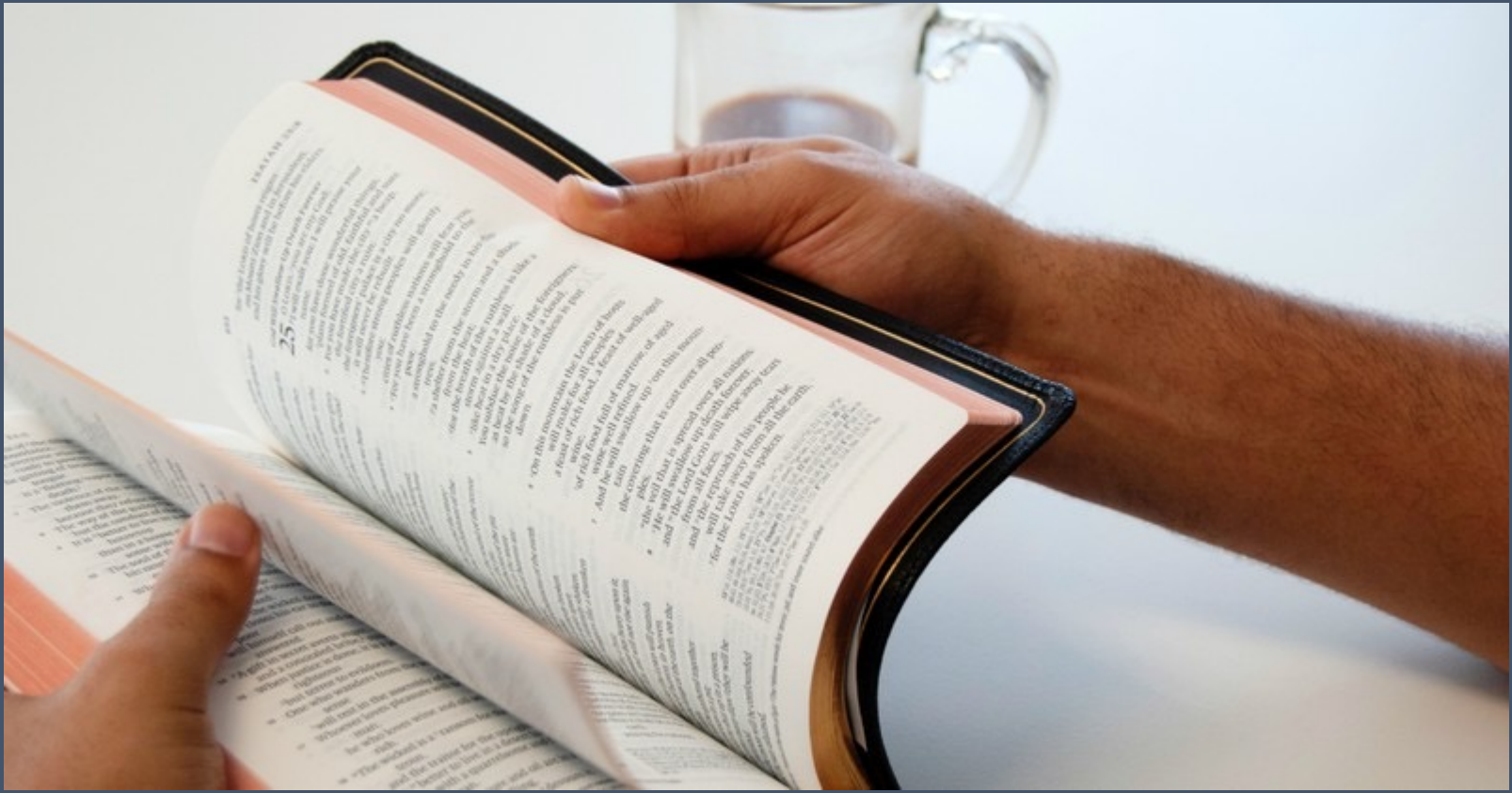
Why should we always be aware that others are watching our actions?

Question?

What are some things we could do that would cause others to stumble?

Question?

How should knowing others
are watching you impact
what you post on facebook,
twitter etc.?



Please turn to:
Philippians 2: 3-4

Philippians 2: 3-4 (ESV)

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

1 Corinthians 9: 1 (ESV)

*Am I not free? Am I not an
apostle? Have I not seen
Jesus our Lord? Are not you
my workmanship in the
Lord?*

Question?

Does it sound like Paul is responding to some who may be questioning his authority?

1 Corinthians 9: 2 (ESV)

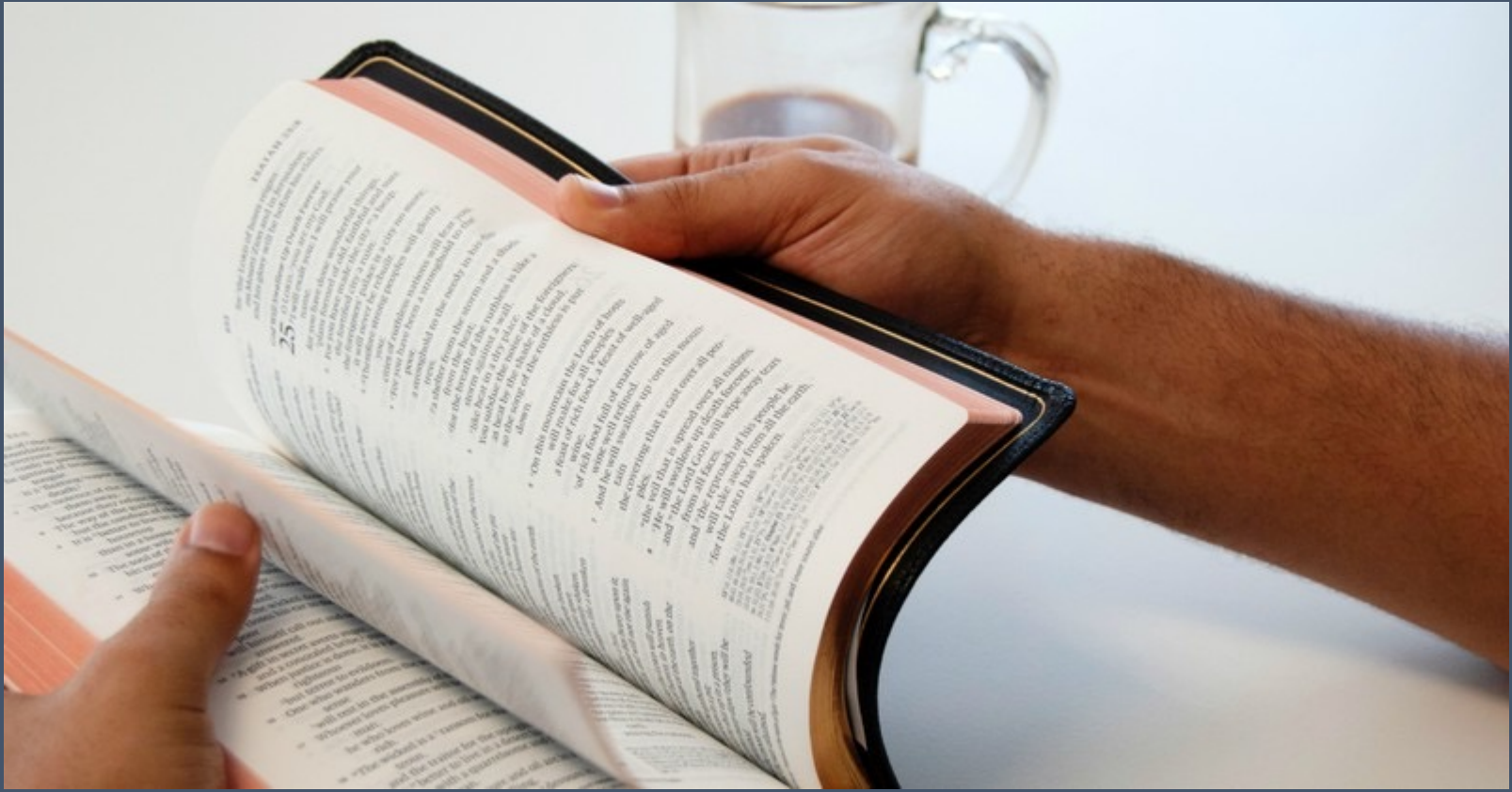
If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 9: 3 (ESV)

*This is my defense to those
who would examine me.*

examine

This is translated from a Greek word that was a legal term for a preliminary investigation or examination which was required to be performed before a decision was reached in a trial.



Please turn to:
Galatians 1: 13-16a

Galatians 1: 13-16a (ESV)

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1: 13-16a (ESV)

For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people,

Galatians 1: 13-16a (ESV)

*so extremely zealous was I
for the traditions of my
fathers. But when he who had
set me apart before I was born,
and who called me by his
grace, was pleased to reveal
his Son to me, in order that I
might preach him among the
Gentiles*

1 Corinthians 9: 3 (ESV)

*This is my defense to those
who would examine me.*

1 Corinthians 9: 4-5 (ESV)

Do we not have the right to eat and drink? Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

It appears they were putting Paul on another level than the other apostles.

1 Corinthians 9: 6 (ESV)

*Or is it only Barnabas and I
who have no right to
refrain from working for
a living?*

Question?

What is Paul referring to when he says he has a right to refrain from working for a living?

Question?

What was Paul's secular career?

Paul is clarifying the point that although he and Barnabas choose not to do so, they should be financially supported as full-time ministers.

1 Corinthians 9: 7 (ESV)

Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

Question?

What does a soldier, a farmer or a shepherd have in common with a Christian?

This Church is clearly struggling with the idea of ministry as a career or in other words paying someone to earn a living working as a minister of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9: 8 (ESV)

Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same?

Question?

What is Paul getting ready to use as support for his statement about financially supporting a minister?

1 Corinthians 9: 9 (ESV)

*For it is written in the Law of Moses, **You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.**” Is it for oxen that God is concerned?*

Question?

What point is Paul making
by quoting
Deuteronomy 25:4?

Question?

What does a muzzle prevent
the oxen from doing?

1 Corinthians 9: 9 (ESV)

*For it is written in the Law of Moses, **You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.**” Is it for oxen that God is concerned?*

1 Corinthians 9: 10 (ESV)

*Does he not certainly speak
for our sake? It was
written for our sake,
because the plowman
should plow in hope and the
thresher thresh in hope of
sharing in the crop.*

1 Corinthians 9: 11-12 (ESV)

If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? *If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?*

1 Corinthians 9: 11-12 (ESV)

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

Question?

What do we learn about
Paul and Barnabas here?

Question?

Remember 1 Corinthians
4:11?

1 Corinthians 4: 11 (NIV)

To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless.

One reason Paul is living a life of poverty is because there were some in the Church struggling with the idea of paying a minister of Christ, so Paul is sacrificing his financial needs to prevent creating a stumbling block.

1 Corinthians 9: 13 (ESV)

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?

1 Corinthians 9: 14 (ESV)

In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9: 15 (ESV)

**But I have made no use of
any of these rights, nor
am I writing these things
to secure any such
provision. For I would
rather die than have
anyone deprive me of my
ground for boasting.**

1 Corinthians 9: 15 (ESV)

But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision.

**For I would rather die
than have anyone deprive
me of my ground for
boasting.**

Question?

What is Paul have grounds
for boasting about?

Remember
1 Corinthians 1: 31?

1 Corinthians 1: 31 (ESV)

**“Let the one who boasts,
boast in the Lord.”**

Paul is saying he would rather die than have anyone think he was preaching with a financial motive!

Question?

What happens when
someone preaches for a
financial motive?