

# An Imperishable Wreath

## **Intro:**

John 10:17-18

Jesus chose the cross He wasn't forced to it -

John 18:1-11

He went willingly (12 legions of angels)

Mk 15:21-32

He could have gotten off at any time...but He didn't.

Why?

## **Problem:**

1 Tim 1:1-7

What is your aim? Is it keeping your restrictions? Is it flaunting your rights? We are called to something more! What does this have to do with our passage?

1 cor 8:7-13...

Causing someone to stumble is more narrow than you think - it is not causing someone to think you are sinning you don't answer to their conscience it causing them to join you in a practice their own conscience condemns them for.

In other words you are not bound to the conscience of the most legalistic person in the room - you have very real rights and very real freedom...

1 cor 8:1

Paul spends the next chapter proving what he began to point out in the last chapter - that even though you have very real rights and very real freedoms - we are to be motivated beyond the mere exercise of our rights and freedoms

## **Main Idea:**

There is something more rewarding than your rights

more fulfilling than your freedom

Run that you may obtain it

## **Implication:**

This is not a sermon about right or restrictions it is a sermon about running

It doesn't matter if it's a marathon or a sprint it is a race meant to be run as if we actually want to win. You cannot live the Christian life by accident

You cannot live the christian life by accident - set goals to glorify God in you marriage at your job in your home in your prayer life in your bible engagement - and pursue them

## **Application:**

Our problem is not that we are not capable or able to endure our problem is we don't see the point

## **Articles for further study:**

<https://www.compellingtruth.org/Christian-Olympics.html>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-christian-hedonism>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/when-i-dont-desire-god-part-1>

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Text:

## **There is something more rewarding than your rights**

1Corinthians 9:1 ¶ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?

1Corinthians 9:2 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.

1Corinthians 9:3 ¶ This is my defense to those who would examine me.

1Corinthians 9:4 **Do we not have the right** to eat and drink?

1Corinthians 9:5 **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?

1Corinthians 9:6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no **right** to refrain from working for a living?

1Corinthians 9:7 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?

1Corinthians 9:8 ¶ Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same?

1Corinthians 9:9 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?

1Corinthians 9:10 Does he not speak certainly 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.

1Corinthians 9:11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?

1Corinthians 9:12 If others share **this rightful claim** on you, do not we even more? ¶ 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.

1Corinthians 9:13 **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?**

1Corinthians 9:14 **In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.**

1Corinthians 9:15 ¶ **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.

1Corinthians 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

1Corinthians 9:17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a **reward**, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.

1Corinthians 9:18 What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as **not to make full use of my right** in the gospel.

*num 5:5-10; 18:8-14 (particular economy - lived upon the worship of the saints - fruit from the labor)*

*deut 18:1-8 (made his living from his service - when the people were faithful they ate steak - Paul was worthy of a wage but chose to not take it...why?)*

*2 cor 11:7-15 (this is why Paul gave up this right - he did not want to look like a specific group of super apostles - Uganda and prosperity preachers -*

*2 cor 12:14-18 (under false accusations of him taking advantage of them - something more rewarding than mere rights)*

## **There is something more fulfilling than your freedom**

1Corinthians 9:19 ¶ For though I am free from all, **I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win** more of them.

1Corinthians 9:20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, **in order to win** Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) **that I might win** those under the law.

1Corinthians 9:21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) **that I might win** those outside the law.

1Corinthians 9:22 To the weak I became weak, **that I might win** the weak. I have become all things to all people, **that** by all means **I might save** some.

1Corinthians 9:23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, **that I may share** with them in its blessings.

*acts 16:1-3 (when Paul was on a mission to Jews - big sacrifice)*

*(acts 21:15-36 (didn't always work out - not everyone understood - why go through with this? For the gospel))*

*gal 2:1-5 (Paul was not yielding to legalism - different context - gentile culture not superimpose legalism)*

*gal 5:1-6 (He was not enslaved to it but was free IN Christ to serve...)*

*matt 20:20-28 (paul was striving for something more than mere freedom - true greatness...Christlikeness)*

## **Run that you may obtain it**

1Corinthians 9:24 ¶ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? **So run that you may obtain it.**

1Corinthians 9:25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. **They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.**

1Corinthians 9:26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.

1Corinthians 9:27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

*Phil 3:12-18 (striving is normal in the Christian life)*

*2 Tim 2:1-15; 4:5-8 (implication)*

*heb 11-12:2 (application)*