

Lesson 28: “Reward Enough”**1 Corinthians 9:15-18****Craig Crawshaw**

1 Corinthians 9:15-18 [NASB] *But I have used none of these things. And I am not writing these things so that it will be done so in my case; for it would be better for me to die than have any man make my boast an empty one. For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.*

1 Corinthians 9:15-18 [The Message] *Still, I want it made clear that I’ve never gotten anything out of this for myself, and that I’m not writing now to get something. I’d rather die than give anyone ammunition to discredit me or impugn my motives. If I proclaim the Message, it’s not to get something out of it for myself. I’m compelled to do it, and doomed if I don’t! If this was my own idea of just another way to make a living, I’d expect some pay. But since it’s not my idea but something solemnly entrusted to me, why would I expect to get paid? So am I getting anything out of it? Yes, as a matter of fact: the pleasure of proclaiming the Message at no cost to you. You don’t even have to pay my expenses!*

UNRAVELLING VERSE 15

“These things” = eating food from the temple altar (v. 13) or receiving financial compensation for proclaiming the gospel (v. 14)

“it will be done so in my case” = I might indeed receive compensation for sharing the gospel

“My boast” = my claim to have not taken any of these compensations (v. 15)

PAUL’S VIEW OF SHARING GOD’S GOOD NEWS

i. MY PRIVILEGE (v. 15)

II. MY CALLING (v. 16)

III. MY REWARD (v. 17-18)

I. MY PRIVILEGE (v. 15)

√ It is my joy to share what I have been given, and what is so special to me.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

2 Corinthians 4:5-7 *For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Christ’s sake. For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.*

“privilege” = [Latin] “lex privata” = law or rule for private persons (not the general law for all)

“Not to get something for myself” (Message) – but to bless another

√ **Privilege is an ATTITUDE of GRATITUDE - cultivate it!**

4 REASONS TO SHARE (from CRU – Campus Crusade for Christ)

1. God's fame - to make God "famous." This is the special "privilege" of we who have been redeemed (bought back and given purpose). To "glorify" God is to reveal Him.

.. ***Psalms 105:1** Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him. Speak of all His wonders.*

2. People are lost – it is the privilege of the "found" to show the way to those who are the "lost"

***2 Corinthians 4:4** The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

3. God wants to speak through me – you are likely the best salesman for Christ your friend will see You know the one "bridge" between your friends and God – and it is Jesus.

***2 Corinthians 5:18-20** [God] gave us the ministry of reconciliation ... therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us ...*

4. To express my joy - the joy of my salvation must have release. If it is real, I must express it.

***1 John 1:3-4** What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also ... These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.*

II. MY CALLING (v. 16)

I am under compulsion. I really have no choice. "Woe is me" if I do not share.

***Jeremiah 20:9** But if I say "I will not remember Him or speak anymore in His name," then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire shut up in my bones; and I am weary of holding it in, and I cannot endure it.*

***Romans 1:16-18** I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

***Romans 1:6** Among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ.*

***1 Corinthians 6:19** ... you are not your own.*

√ **Calling is an ATTITUDE of NECESSITY – cultivate it!**

III. MY REWARD (v. 17-18)

√ My reward is to be able to offer the greatest gift for free. "What then is my reward? – That ... I may offer the gospel without charge."

***Isaiah 55:1** Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.*

***Ephesians 2:8, 9** For by grace are you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

***Romans 9:16** So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.*

***Acts 20:24 [NIV]** However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.*

√ **Reward is an ATTITUDE of FULFILLMENT – cultivate it!**