

Your Aim

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Introduction:

- A. Is goal setting important?
1. In losing w_____?
 2. For a_____?
 3. For the Christian?
- B. Jesus set a goal for Christians before ascending into heaven of making d_____ of all the nations (Greek – ethnos in Matt 28:19).
1. Jesus stated the g_____ will be preached to all the ethnos and then the end will come (Matt 24:14).
 2. Rev 7:9 is a vision of all the redeemed for all time – people from e_____ tribe, tongue, nation, and class of people.
 3. God saved you to be His w_____ (1 Pet 2:9).
- C. Paul had a goal in witnessing and we would do well to adopt these same goals – what are you aiming at?

Your immediate aim – r_____ to all (19-22)

- A. Although Paul was f_____ from everyone, he voluntarily made himself a s_____ to everyone
1. Freedom in Christ in this context refers to freedom from ex_____ rules, termed law.
 2. Christians are no longer u_____ the authority of law in the sense of external rules (Rom 6:14)
 3. This does not mean that Christians are forbidden to observe any rules or forbidden to observe every rule in the Mosaic Law – these are not our ultimate guide.
- B. Paul worked to become relateable to all
1. To the J_____ who observed the Law - Paul would be careful to observe it (e.g. – when eating a meal with a Jew, he would eat off the Jewish menu).
 2. To the G_____ who was without law – Paul would not insist on his Jewishness (e.g. – when eating a meal at a Gentile’s house, he would eat whatever he was served.) However, he did this without violating the law of C_____ (e.g. he would not participate in a person’s sin)

3. To the weak, Paul would become weak.
 - a. The word translated in the Greek has four meanings:
 - 1) P_____ weakness (1 Pet 3:7)
 - 2) Weakness in health, which is usually translated as s_____ (Lk 9:2)
 - 3) M_____ weakness (Matt 26:41)
 - 4) R_____ weakness (2 Cor 10:22; 12:9,10)
 - b. Paul is referring to definition 4
 - 1) The weak by the world's standards are the p_____, the disabled, the helpless, the undesirables.
 - 2) Paul would not pull up in a gold-plated chariot to witness to a poor person.
- C. Two actions that will turn unbelievers off
 1. H_____ horse activity – putting our spirituality on display
 2. W_____ washy activity – acting hypocritically (acting like a Christian around Christians and acting like the world around non-Christians).

Your intermediate aim – w_____ to many (23)

- A. Being relatable to unbelievers is for the sake of the g_____, which means good news.
 1. God became man in the person of Christ, paid for s_____ on the cross, and rose from the dead as proof.
 2. As soon as a person r_____ from sin and entrusts their life to Christ to be their God and Savior, all their sins are paid for.
 3. God requires us to s_____ the gospel (be a fellow-partaker)
- B. Your mission field
 1. Where is it? – your unbelieving f_____, friends, co-workers (anyone around you).
 2. What should you do? - P_____ daily for opportunities to share Christ and grab those opportunities.

Your ultimate aim – w_____ some (24-27)

- A. The metaphor of the runner in the Isthmian games (held every _____ years).

1. The ultimate goal of a runner – to w_____ the prize (which was a wreath)
 2. This required the runner to have s_____ -control in working out on a daily basis.
 3. This requires a runner to compete according to the r_____ so as not to be disqualified.
- B. The metaphor applied
1. When a believer grabs an opportunity to witness, the goal is to win that person to Christ.
 - a. This results in an eternal r_____ (imperishable wreath)
 - b. This requires us to be ready to share.
 2. We must be careful that we do not d_____ ourselves from being a witness
 - a. Be r_____ of all sin (2 Tim 2:21).
 - b. Live in o_____ to Christ (Jn 14:15).
 - c. Ultimately God does the saving. We are His i_____

Conclusion:

The most popular race in the Isthmian games was the race where a lighted t_____ was passed from runner to runner. From this came the phrase, “Let those who have the light, pass it on.” You have the light!