**September 8, 2020**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

25200 SR 46 Sorrento, FL 32776; 352.383.5052

Web Site: [www.RefugeSorrento.com](http://www.RefugeSorrento.com)

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Pastor and Diocesan**

**Elder Alfonzo Baptiste, Supply Pastor**

APOSTOLIC SUFFERING

**1 Corinthians 9:1-12**

***I Corinthians 9:1 "Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?"***

In the very beginning again, we must remember that Paul is answering letters that had been written to him from this very strong church at Corinth. He is reminding them that his authority had come from him being an apostle of Jesus Christ. He, also, reminds them that his calling was a dramatic call when he actually came in contact with the Light of the world. Jesus Christ, Himself, had sent Paul to minister to these people. It is with no small authority then that he is doing this. Paul even reminds them, here, that he was the one who founded the church in Corinth. He goes on to remind them, that they were Christians through his ministry. He says, you are my children in the Lord.

***I Corinthians 9:2 "If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord."***

Paul is saying to them that in some other places, he might not be accepted as the voice to the Gentiles, but here at Corinth the church established was through his preaching. He is saying, you cannot deny me without denying your own salvation. The Jews in nearly every city had rejected Paul, but he had been accepted here at Corinth by these believers. Just the fact that there is a large group of believers here at the church in Corinth, speaks for itself in him being an apostle.

***I Corinthians 9:3 "Mine answer to them that do examine me is this,"***

It seems that even here at the church that Paul had started, some had begun to question Paul's authority.

***I Corinthians 9:4 "Have we not power to eat and to drink?"***

Paul is explaining to them that the apostle's living should come from the people he ministers to. They ministered to the people with no strings attached, but the people must from a free will support those who minister to them.

***I Corinthians 9:5 "Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and [as] the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas***?"

There were many women, as well as men, that travelled with Paul and ministered with him. Paul is explaining to them, that they are not travelling with him as girlfriends, but women ministers not usurping or in competition but in complement of the men ministers. Many of the wives travelled with their husbands who were ministering, as well. Sometimes these journeys lasted for months and sometimes for years.

***Philippians 4:3 "And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and [with] other my fellowlabourers, whose names [are] in the book of life."***

***1 Corinthians 14:33-38***

***33For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.***

***34Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law.***

***35And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.***

***36What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?***

***37If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.***

***38But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.***

We should also read in Luke chapter 8, the first few verses and we will find that Jesus, also, had women travelling with Him and the 12 apostles to minister.

***Romans 16:1-7***

***1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:***

***2That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.***

***3Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:***

***4Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.***

***5Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.***

***6Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.***

***7Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow-prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.***

***I Corinthians 9:6 "Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?"***

This is a shame from Paul stating that they {Paul and Barnabas} were worthy to receive their living from the tithing of the churches they ministered to. Note this is different from the offering which was given to support the church. Paul did not want to be obligated to any particular group and made his living as a tent maker. History teaches that Dorcas gave heavily to the ministry of Paul.

***I Corinthians 9:7 "Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?"***

Paul is showing how ridiculous it is for the minister of God to have to furnish his own living. In the law of Moses it was taught that those who ministered were to live of the things of the temple. The worker is worthy of his hire. Even in the world, the people are paid for the work they do, whether they are working for the government or on a job.

***I Corinthians 9:8 "Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?"***

Paul was speaking of the law of Moses, which had taught that the priest, and high priest, and their family were to live of the gifts brought to the temple.

***I Corinthians 9:9 "For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?"***

Paul is saying, can't you see that this is not speaking of oxen, but of men who labor for the Lord?

***I Corinthians 9:10 "Or saith he [it] altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, [this] is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope."***

There would be no reason for a person to plough, if he could not reap of the harvest. Work brings a reward. Our labor is not in vain. Man works to feed and clothe his family. Paul is saying to these people, just because this work is for the kingdom of God, does that mean that the workers will not be able to live of the offerings? Of course, the answer is obvious. Those who work in the ministry should take their living of the ministry. Those who minister should not minister for great wealth or even for the pay, but they must be paid so they can continue another day.

***I Corinthians 9:11 "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, [is it] a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?"***

God's law is if you sow, you shall reap. Paul is saying here, that they sowed spiritual things, which are much better than the carnal things they shall reap. What shall a man gain, if he win the whole world and lose his own soul? The spiritual is much to be desired. These people are hesitant to pay the living needed by Paul and Barnabas, because the labor they had done was beneficial to the spirit and could not be seen with the eye. Paul is reminding them how much more valuable the spiritual is than the carnal. If they had all the carnal wealth in the world and had no spiritual awakening, they would be poor indeed.

***I Corinthians 9:12 "If others be partakers of [this] power over you, [are] not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ."***

Paul says to them, even though it was his right to have a living from those he had ministered to here, he did not require it, because he did not want them thinking that that is why he ministered to them. Paul is not asking for himself but teaching them a principal. He does say, if anyone had a right to be supported of you in the ministry, it was me. It is enough to say that Paul gave them a truth here, that has helped many a preacher. Ministers have to eat and sleep just like everyone else. They need clothes for their backs and a car to get to church in. If they spend all of their time working for God, they have no time left to make the money needed for these things. Preachers, or ministers, are supposed to spend their time in prayer, and study of God's Word, and in ministering to God's people. They belong to God 24 hours a day. However, each minister must evaluate the most effective way to suffer (use or refuse) financial support for the Gospel’s sake.

***2 Corinthians 11:7-13***

***7Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?***

***8I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.***

***9And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.***

***10As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.***

***11Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.***

***12But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.***

***13For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.***

**QUESTIONS**

1. What does Paul call himself in verse 1?
2. Who did Paul say he had seen?
3. What was the purpose of this chapter written by Paul?
4. Who had sent Paul to minister to these people?
5. In verse one, what are some of the things Paul reminds them of?
6. Why should these people, of all he had ministered to, accept him as an apostle?
7. Verse 3 shows what about Paul's ministry?
8. Where should the apostle's living come from?
9. What was Paul talking about in verse 5?
10. What were the women with Paul doing with him?
11. Where do we find one Scripture that answers this question?
12. Where do we find in the Scriptures that women travelled with Jesus as well?
13. What other minister of the gospel does Paul speak of in verse 6?
14. How had Paul made his living?
15. Was this where his living should have come from?
16. What woman does history tell us gave heavily to Paul's ministry?
17. What ridiculous things was Paul comparing ministering with no pay to in verse 7?
18. What law was Paul speaking of in verse 8?
19. Give the statement that had been made in the law of Moses?
20. He that ploweth should plow in \_\_\_\_\_\_.
21. Those who work in the ministry should take their living from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
22. Paul said they had sown unto them spiritual things, and should reap \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things.
23. Why were the people reluctant to pay Paul and Barnabas for their labors?
24. Why did Paul make his own living by making tents?