

**I. Introduction: Paul instructed the Corinthians about paying those who minister the Word of God. Though he chose not to ask for money so that no one could accuse him of greed.**

- A. The Bible makes it clear that the minister of the Bible should be financially cared for by the people he ministers to, not out of obligation, but out of love and gratitude.

**II. Worthy of Their Wages (1 Cor 9:1-18).**

A. Ministers Are Sent Ones (**vv. 1-2**).

1. Paul said that his position should be an adequate reason for them to support his ministry, because he had been commissioned by Jesus to proclaim the truth.

B. Ministers Are Liberated Men (**vv. 3-6**).

1. Paul asserted that ministers have been given rights by God, and they can exercise them. However, he would not exercise his rights, but would limit his liberty out of love.

C. Ministers Are Wage Earners (**v. 7**).

1. Paul contended that generally people should be compensated for their labors, and that ministers of the word should be supported by those that they minister to.

D. Ministers Are Grinding Animals (**vv. 8-12**).

1. Paul said that ministers are like an animal grinding away at the work of the ministry, and that those around them should not muzzle the ox so as to frustrate it.

E. Ministers are God's Priests (**vv. 13-14**).

1. Paul argued that the priesthood was a model for how the church should function; priests lived off of the sacrifices of the people, who brought them to the temple.

**III. Conclusion: Paul told the Corinthians that they should give financial support to those who preach the word, because God has ordained that we uphold the messenger of truth.**

## Questions About: Worthy of Their Wages

1. Should churches pay those who preach the Bible? Why? What are biblical reasons that Paul gives for paying ministers of the Word? Why did Paul not exercise his right in Corinth?
2. How are ministers sent by God? (**vv. 1-2**) How do we know that Paul was sent by God? (**Acts 9**) What did Paul say was the proof of his Apostleship? Why was it important that he was sent?
3. What rights did Paul say that he had in Christ? (**vv. 3-6**) What does it mean that he had the right to eat and drink? Or to take a believing wife? Or to refrain from working?
4. What are the three illustrations that Paul gives about the pastor? (**v. 7**) How is the pastor like a soldier? How is the minister like a farmer? In what way is he like a shepherd?
5. What other word pictures did Paul use to argue for paying ministers of the word? (**vv. 8-12**) What is the broad principal that Paul lays out? (**v. 11**) How did this apply to Paul?
6. How did Paul compare the minister of the word to a priest? (**vv. 13-14**) How did Old Testament priests share in the sacrifices? In what way is a minister like a priest?
7. What surprises you about Paul's perspective on giving? (**1 Cor 9:11**) What did Jesus say about giving toward His servants? (**Matt 10:7, 10**) Does this match your thinking about giving?
8. What are some principals about giving to those in ministry, that you see? How can you apply those to your giving today? Does this change your attitude toward giving?

### Prayer

1. Pray and ask God to reveal to you how you might learn from Paul's understanding of giving.
2. Ask God to help you to be generous toward His servants, for the work of the Kingdom of God.