

January 18, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

1 Cor. 9:19 *Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. (NIV)*

One of the significant blessings of freedom is that it changes our direction and our determination. Paul is telling the church in Corinth that even though he is a free man and not a slave to anyone, or owned by anyone, bringing others to Christ was more important to him than using his freedom in a selfish manner. This cannot happen in and of the flesh. When we are governed by the flesh, we can only do temporal things that have no lasting value. We are driven by self rather than by the Spirit. Paul's submission to the will and way of Christ meant that he would have to 'put to death' his own desires and ambitions. Just as a reminder, he mentioned these things in **Phil. 3:4-7** *Though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. (NIV)* You see, freedom means we can actually enjoy and prosper in giving ourselves completely to the Master. It transfers all of the responsibility to Him as we walk in His presence, listen to His Spirit and abide in His Word.

Paul would later say it this way **v. 12-14** *Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (NIV)*

Dear LORD, help us to submit to You completely so that we can receive the joy of freedom in our walk with You. You have come to set us free from our sinful, selfish ways. Instead, we can enjoy the liberty that is only found in You. In Jesus Name, Amen