

## The Book of I Corinthians

# 21

## Morning Devotions

Read a Scripture passage of your choice. Talk with the Lord as you read his Word. When you are finished, go back and select one or two verses that you believe the Lord is using to speak to your heart. Meditate thoughtfully and prayerfully on what he is saying to you.

## Morning Study

Today we will look at the third subsection of **1 Corinthians 7-10**. In this subsection, Paul gives opens his heart and shares his attitude to ministry as an example of how the Corinthian Christians should behave. This chapter also addresses the divisions that had arisen within the Corinthian Church in regard to apostolic ministry (note **1:10-12; 3:1-23; 4:1-21**). Read **chapter 9** and answer for yourself the questions associated with it. Type out your answers (or jot them down on a piece of paper) and file them together with your morning study.

### Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-14

- What did Paul consider the seal of his apostleship in the Lord? (**9:1-2**).
- In **9:3-14**, what is the main point Paul is making to the Corinthians?
- Although Paul had every right to demand support from the Corinthian Christians, why did he choose not to use this right? (**9:12**).

### Read 1 Corinthians 9:15-23

- What is the “boast” that Paul could potentially rely on? (**9:15**).
- Why, however, could Paul not boast? (**9:16-17**).
- What did Paul count as his reward? (**9:18**).
- In order to win as many as possible to Christ, what did Paul do? (**9:19-23**).

### Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- What two olympic sports did Paul use to illustrate his attitude to life and ministry? (**9:24-27**).
- In **9:27**, why did Paul say that he “beat [his] body”?
- What was the prize for which Paul could be disqualified if did not “[go] into strict training”? (**9:27**) (note **Philippians 3:14** and its context).

# MEMORY VERSE

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize?  
Run in such a way as to get the prize.

1 Corinthians 9:24

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!