

GOD'S WISDOM & WARNINGS REGARDING WHO YOU SHOULD FINANCIALLY SUPPORT Pt. 3

A. God Wants You to Wisely Use the Money and/or Financial Resources He provides You ...

1. **ULTIMATELY**, to **HONOR THE LORD** by being a wise and faithful **STEWARD** of everything He has given you. (Prov. 3:9; 1 Chronicles 29:11-14; Deut. 8:17-18; 1 Cor. 4:2)
2. **SPECIFICALLY...**

B. God Wants You to Exercise **BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT** When Supporting Individuals, Local Churches and Christian Ministries regarding ...

1. **WHO** you **SHOULD** financially support? {Hear God's wisdom!}

- a. Start with your own doctrinally sound local church _____ who spiritually feed and lead you. Why should you support these servants of the Lord?
 - 1) Because those who are involved & faithful in "full-time" ministry are _____ to do so by the grace-giving of believers & are _____ of this financial support as a reward for their labors. (1 Tim. 5:17-18)
 - 2) Because those who are being _____ are commanded to help bear their teacher's burdens & express appreciation for their teaching by choosing to _____ all good things _____. (Gal. 6:6)

The **CONTEXT** of this passage:

- RESTORING the OVERTAKEN (6:1)
- RELIEVING BURDENED BELIEVERS (6:2-5)
- REMUNERATING BIBLE TEACHERS (6:6)

The **CONTENT** of Galatians 6:6: Let him {referring to each individual believer} who is {being} _____ refers to a formal kind of verbal, scriptural, face-to-face instruction} **the** _____ {of God; this is an important qualifier as to who you are to support} _____ {koinoneo - pres. act. imperative - each believer is commanded to share materially or participate in providing for them physically / financially; see also Romans 15:27; Phil. 5:15} **in all good things** {this is what is being shared; providing for the Bible teacher physically or spiritually good things out of grateful appreciation; its purposely broad and vague to accommodate various cultures} **with** _____ {the Bible teacher or pastor that God is using to spiritually feed or teach him/her the WOG in his local church, as there were no parachurch ministries in those days.}. What are the responsibilities of both the taught & teacher in this verse? Why might this imperative be needed in the Galatia churches as well as needed today?

- b. Include also, if possible, doctrinally sound _____ that clearly preach the Gospel, evangelize the lost, establish believers, plant churches, etc. What are several reasons to support doctrinally sound missionaries and ministries?
 - 1) Because it was the widespread _____ to expect to be financially supported in & for ministry. (1 Cor. 9:1-6)

I Am I not an apostle? {Yes, you are! Rom. 1:1, 11:13; 1 Cor. 1:1, 15:9} **Am I not free?** {Yes, you are! You are free in Christ from the Law, sin, the world, Satan, etc.} **Have I not _____ Jesus Christ our Lord?** {Yes, you have! This is one of the criteria for being an apostle - Acts 1:22, 2:32 - excluding imposters today; Paul had seen the risen Christ in Acts 9:4-5, 18:9-10, 22:17-18} **Are you not _____?**

{Yes, we are as God used you to “birth” believers {1 Cor. 4:15} & plant this local church {Acts18:1-11; 1 Cor. 3:6} but he remembered it was still a “work in the Lord” which acted as another confirmation of his apostleship}

2 If {1st} I am not an _____ {lets assume that to be true for the sake of argument; notice that he does not mention ‘Barnabas’ as an apostle} **to others** {to other churches he did not plant}, **yet doubtless** {without a doubt or question} **I am** {an apostle} **to you** {these Corinthian believers in Christ}. **For** {gar – gives an explanation or reason} _____ **are the seal** {confirming evidence – 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Cor. 3:1-5} **of** _____ {thus, there is no reason to question his claim of apostleship but once again Paul acknowledges that it is ...} **in the Lord.**

3 My defense to those who examine {refers to a legal type of investigation or inquiry to reach a decision or verdict as there were those questioning his apostleship} **me is this: 4 Do we have no _____** {no right or liberty} **to eat and drink?** {allusion to Luke 10:7; to be financially supported in the ministry which involves eating & drinking, etc.? No, you have that right to expect support!}

5 Do we have no _____ {no right or ‘liberty’ – 8:9} **to take along** {to marry & be supported in ministry travel accompanied by} **a believing wife** {literally, a “sister-wife” a “sister” in Christ – note: equally yoked; Paul purposely remained single; 1 Cor. 7:7-8, 35}, **as do** {actually, not hypothetically} **also the _____** {Paul includes himself; limited group of 12 men; “the twelve” – 1 Cor. 15:5; these apostles were married and financially supported in ministry as were ...}, **the** {half} _____ **of the Lord** {Jude, James, etc. – Matt. 13:55; John 7:5; 1 Cor. 15:7 - these were married and supported in ministry}, **and Cephas** {Peter was married & had a mother-in-law, Matt. 8:14, and was financially supported for ministry. - No, you do also have that right!}

6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no _____ {no right or liberty} **to refrain** {refrain or forego} **from working** {manual labor to support ourselves in ministry; touch of sarcasm}? {No, you, Paul, an apostle, and Barnabas, a missionary, have the right or liberty to refrain from working by receiving financial support from others as ministers of the Gospel.}

2) **Because it is a _____ for a person to expect to be supported & rewarded in various realms of life and labor.**

7 Who {as a soldier} ever goes to war at his own expense? {No one does! They are supplied with what is needed to serve!} **Who {as a vinedresser} plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit?** {No one does! They eat as the fruit of their labor.} **Or who {as a shepherd} tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?** {No one does! They expect to drink the milk of those whom they have shepherded.}

3) **Because it has _____ for God’s servants to be supported for their labor by those who they ministered to. (9:8-10a)**

8 Do I say these things as a mere man {with simply human opinion & perspective. No!}? **Or does not the {OT} law say the same also?** {Yes, it does!} **9 For it is written** {perfect, passive, indicative of grapho} **in the law of Moses,** {quoting - Deut. 25:4} **"You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out** {is threshing} **the grain."** {just like 1 Timothy 5:18} **Is it oxen God is concerned about** {in the context when Moses stated this proverbial saying in Duet. 25:4??} **10a Or does He {God} say it altogether for our sakes** {for our benefit Yes!} **For our sakes** {or sp. benefit}, **no doubt, this is written** {in Deut. 25:4: why?}

4) **Because of the _____ . (9:11-12a)**

10b that he who plows should plow in hope {plowing with an expectant anticipation of having a harvest}, **and he who threshes in hope** {threshes with expectant anticipation that he} **should be partaker** {sharer} **of his hope** {of enjoying the harvest}. **11 If {1st} we have sown _____ things** {like the faithful preaching of the Gospel & teaching of the WOG - 1 Cor. 3:6-8} **for** {for or among} **you** {and we have!}, **is it a great thing** {is it expecting too much} **if {1st} we reap** {and we assume we should} **your _____ things** {such as food, drink, lodging, financial remuneration – no, that should be appropriate & even expected. BTW – When will the Lord reward His faithful servants spiritually? - 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 5:4.}?

So why Paul did you not use this right to be supported in this ministry? Nevertheless we have _____ {not made use or utilized} **this _____** {this right or liberty to be materially supported by you - though we ministered to you and were deserving of being supported}, **but** {instead of being supported by you we have chosen to} _____ **all things** {to forebear or by-pass this support & put up with what was needed physically / financially while we were there (Acts 18:3). Paul was a leather -maker who made tents to support himself & his mission team as needed (Acts 20:34; 2 Thess. 3:8; why did he refuse their support?) **lest** {hina – that} **we _____** {put an obstacle or hindrance in the way of people receiving} **the gospel of Christ** {which we were sowing}. It was NOT because Paul was not a bonafide apostle that he refused to be financially supported at Corinth, but he exercised his liberty to refrain from support to eliminate a hindrance to the Gospel.}

5) Because it is a _____, even commanded by the _____. (9:13-18; Luke 10:7: 1 Tim. 5:18)

13 Do you not know {which they did but needed to be reminded of – can you relate?} **that those** {Levitical attendants} **who minister the holy things** {are then free or at liberty to} **eat of the things of the temple** {as a reward of their service}, and those who serve at the altar {OT priests} partake of the offerings of the altar {Lev. 7:6, 8–10, 28–36; Num. 18:8–24}?

14 Even so {in the same way as these OT tabernacle/temple ministers} **the _____** {Jesus Christ} **has _____** {commanded / directed} **that those who preach {proclaim} the gospel** {the good news from God to man about salvation through Jesus Christ by God's grace} **should _____** {be supported physically / financially} _____ {ek- out from as a source} **the** {preaching of the} _____. {Where did Christ teach this? Luke 10:7 & Matt. 10:10, just like Paul also alluded to in vs. 3 & affirmed in 1 Tim. 5:18!}

So why Paul did you not use this right to be supported in this ministry? 15 But I {Paul} **have used** {made use or utilized in my practice - vs.12} _____ **of these things** {such as my rights or liberty to be married or financially supported}, **nor have I written these things** {about supporting those who do the work of the Lord} **that it _____** {as a veiled attempt for me to gain your support. He did not want people misunderstanding his motives in ministry.} **for it would be better for me to die** {physically} **than that anyone should make my boasting void** {should deprive me of my great rejoicing or glorying in doing Gospel ministry free of charge to you by making it an empty boast that I did not fulfill}.

16 For if {3rd – I might or might not} **I preach the gospel** {euangelizo – to preach the Gospel, which was the message he was called by God to preach and which people needed to hear – Rom. 1:14-16}, **I have nothing to boast of about** {no reason to glory in preaching the Gospel}, **for** {the reason being} _____ {this responsibility} **is laid upon me** {Gospel preaching was not optional for Paul, though receiving their support was!}; **yes, woe is me if** {3rd} **I do not _____** {euangelizo – to preach the Gospel as God has called me to do – 1 Cor. 1:17-31}! {Don't you wish that more pastors, teachers, missionaries, and believers thought that way about preaching the Gospel?}

17 For if {1st} **I do this** {ministry of preaching the Gospel} willingly {voluntarily – which is what the Lord ideally wants – option #1}, **I have a reward** {misthos}; **but if** {1st – if I do this ministry of preaching the Gospel} **against my will** {not voluntarily – option #2}, **I have** {still} **been entrusted** {passive voice – entrusted by God} **with a stewardship** {a stewardship of preaching the Gospel that I am responsible for! }.

18 What is my reward then? That when I {do} **preach the gospel** {notice again the emphasis}, **I may present the gospel of Christ** {notice again the importance & emphasis} **without _____** {free of charge financially to those who hear it - unlike the Sophists in Corinth were doing}, **that I may not abuse** {or make full use of} **my _____** {or right to be financially supported} **in the gospel** {ministry}.

Why did Paul not accept their financial support though it was his right to receive it for the ministry he rendered to them?

- 1) Because he did not want to _____ the spreading of the Gospel. (2 Cor. 9:12, 15)
- 2) Because he wanted to _____ some. (2 Cor. 9:22)
- 3) Because he wanted to distinguish himself from _____ in his day. (2 Cor. 11:7-15)
- 4) Because he wanted to set a good example for other believers regarding work. (2 Thess. 3:6-9)
- 5) Because he wanted to have _____ to give to others in need. (Acts 20:32-35)

How does this apply to you?