By All Means

John Lasater · 1 Corinthians 9:19–27

INTRODUCTION

- What is this phrase by all means? It's actually a phrase that we find in the book of 1 Corinthians, chapter 9.
- If we think about the life of the Apostle Paul, we see someone who was indeed extremely committed to the Lord's cause. We see somebody who used every opportunity that he had.

1 That I May By All Means Save Some

1 Corinthians 9:22–23; 1 Corinthians 9:24–27

- To the weak I became weak that I might win the weak. I've become all things to all men so that I may by all means save some.
- That was his attitude. Whatever it takes, by all means, I'm going to find some way to try to reach people with the gospel.
- What was he focused on winning? Souls.
- He went against things that might be his natural inclinations because he wanted to win souls.

2 We Need to Be a Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:1–2; Philippians 2:1–8

- Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
- God is telling all of us, we need to be a living sacrifice.
- Do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but also for the interest of others.
- He didn't do that because of what he needed, he did that because of what you needed.

3 Personal Things That Paul Gave Up

Philippians 3:8; 1 Corinthians 9:1–5; 1 Corinthians 9:14

- I count all things to be lost in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ, Jesus my Lord.
- When Paul was in Corinth, Paul didn't take any support from Corinth.
- They that preach the gospel should live of the gospel, verse 14. But at the same time, Paul didn't take support from Corinth.
- He was more focused on what do I need to do to take down whatever obstacle stands between you and God.

4 Artificial Barriers Between People

- Sometimes we make artificial barriers between people that we won't talk to about the gospel.

- We shouldn't say, oh, this person is too important. And we shouldn't, on the other end, say, oh, this person is too messed up with drugs.
- There are some people that may be that you're the only real Christian that they know.
- If there's something that I need to change that will help me win souls, will I change that?

5 How Are You Affecting the Visitors?

- How are you affecting the visitors that come in the door?
- Winning souls is not just about getting somebody to the water of baptism. Winning souls is about keeping people encouraged, keeping people devoted.
- We need to show interest in where people are, not only in their lives, but in especially their spiritual lives.
- Here's somebody that's come in the door. Follow up with them. Call them, send them cards.

6 We Need to Have Patience

Ephesians 4:1–3; 1 Corinthians 12:22–27

- They're going to still have problems. They're going to still struggle with sin. And they're not going to learn everything you know in five minutes.
- I'm going to sacrifice what's my natural tendencies because I care about people and I'm going to bear with them.
- Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called. With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.
- If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. If one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

THE CHALLENGE

Should we have that whatever it takes attitude? By all means. By all means. So where do you stand this evening?

MY NOTES