

The Corinthian Letters, Lesson 34, 1st Corinthians 9:19-22, All Things to All Men

☞ Fishing is one of those things that hasn't changed all the much over the centuries. Fish still must be fooled into biting a hook and the fishermen still have to brave the elements and put themselves in some danger to reach the fish. The same is true in fishing for men, not much has changed. It is still difficult and precarious and very challenging.

1. Listen to how Paul, an expert fisherman, handled that challenge, 1st Corinthians 9:19-22.

- ✓ "All things to all men, that I might by all means save some" Does that describe the average Christian you know? Does that describe most churches you know? Does that describe this church? Does that describe you? Anymore it seems that the average Christian and Church's efforts to reach people could be better described by "Some things to a few men." We are unwilling to change or move to reach a changing and moving world. Notice how Paul constantly repositions himself to be the most effective. 1st Corinthians 9:19, "slave," they exist for others not for themselves. What is a lighthouse that exists for itself? Not a lighthouse! God has called us to be lighthouses not self-houses. 1st Corinthians 9:20a, wasn't Paul already a Jew? Paul was a Jew's Jew by his own account, and he had to leave that to come to Christ. Paul did not return to his old ways and religion, but he didn't abandon his people either. 1st Corinthians 9:20b, have we abandoned the religious who still don't have a relationship with Jesus? Paul moved to reach them. 1st Corinthians 9:21, what about the people with no knowledge of the truth? Jesus can and will transform their lives, have we forgotten that? Paul moved so that he could reach them. 1st Corinthians 9:22, the weak = young or immature believers, are we moving for them? Children and youth require a lot of patience, money, and time, are we paying that price?

2. While we are talking about moving, we need to remember that there are some things that never move.

- ✓ Hebrews 13:8, we don't move off of Jesus!, Isaiah 40:8. Titus 1:9, we don't budge from this!

3. Other things need to always be on the move.

The ways we convey Jesus and His word need to always be in flux. For a church or believer to be effective, they have to adapt their ministry and method to fit the culture without changing their message. Are we doing that? Have we forgotten that we are called to be a lighthouse not a self-house? Have we written off those the Lord is trying to write in? Would you pray about the move God may need you to make for Him and for them?
