

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

*Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (v2)*

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 9:2-9

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, & illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, & woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. <sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. St. Paul uses the word *gospel* 10 times in *1 Corinthians* (1:17, 4:15, 9:12, 14, 16, 18, 23). How do 1:18-2:5 frame the *gospel*? Review the Formula of Concord ch. V, in both the *Epitome* (summary/abstract) & the *Solid Declaration* (full explanation; esp. paragraph 22). How does this clarity shine light on vv19 & following above? FC available <bookofconcord.org>
2. How does Paul's explanation in 4:6-21 set up his willing rejection of comfort & privilege in ch. 9 above? See Mark 10:42-45; Philippians 2:1-11; 3:3-11;

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Notice that St. Paul doesn't change the gospel, but rather it changes him (*Galatians 1:15-16, Acts 9:15-16*) & it frees him (9:1; *Galatians 5:1*) to change for others (vv20-22). Tell of five times that the Holy Spirit has used your gospel freedom to share the gospel across your own demographic/socio-economic-political class?
4. What reward (vv17-18, 24-27) do Christians look forward to? See 15:1-58, esp. vv35-58 Traditionally we hear vv50-57 at funerals. What hope & comfort does this promised reward bring you while grieving a fellow baptized believer's death? How does it inspire you to proclaim the gospel (v16, 23)?

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Think about all the many, many choices, preferences, & opinions that all add up to 1) how your congregation ministers & 2) controls who your congregation ministers to. Other than the worship book/hymnal & an online/virtual connection, which 10 of these choices are essential to being this congregation? Which 10 lock in & limit ministry to the previous generation rather than the next?
6. St. Paul radically subordinates his powers, privileges, position, etc. (his "rights") to the needs of others regarding their reception of the gospel & salvation (cf. *Matthew 5:1-12*). How can you "lead the charge" within your own congregation to give up "comfort zones" for the sake of those "pre-Christians," those \*not yet\* our brothers & sisters in Christ?

Festival of Our Lord's Transfiguration

02.14.21

Series: Everyday Holiness

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

For the Sake Of

*Jesus' cross is how we make sense of holiness; it's the fullness of holiness.*

-Notes-

**KEY VERSE: I do it all for the sake of the gospel,  
so that I may share in its blessings. (v23)**

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**-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-**

**This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him! (*Luke 9:35*)**

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