

**Title: Where To Now Lord? – 1 Corinthians 9 15-27**

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**Read:**

<sup>15-18</sup> Still, I want it made clear that I've never gotten anything out of this for myself, and that I'm not writing now to get something. I'd rather die than give anyone ammunition to discredit me or impugn my motives. If I proclaim the Message, it's not to get something out of it for myself. I'm compelled to do it, and doomed if I don't! If this was my own idea of just another way to make a living, I'd expect some pay. But since it's not my idea but something solemnly entrusted to me, why would I expect to get paid? So am I getting anything out of it? Yes, as a matter of fact: the pleasure of proclaiming the Message at no cost to you. You don't even have to pay my expenses! <sup>19-23</sup> Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it! <sup>24-25</sup> You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. <sup>26-27</sup> I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.

**Think:**

We depart briefly from our current book of the Bible because we want to honour God. Let me explain. We at Aftershock aim to live our lives just as Paul did in this passage. We want to proclaim Gods glorious generosity to the world so that people would come to know Jesus and live their lives in line with Gods perfect plan. God has blessed us beyond what we deserve and we want to manage what time, money and skills he has given us to the very best of our ability. We want the same for you at school and college. We want you to use your skills, time and money to Gods glory in the life you lead for him. This is why at times in our lives we must take stock and ask ourselves are we doing what God wants with His resources. Aftershock is at the point now. Whilst we are blessed beyond what we deserve the opportunities to do Gods work are everywhere and we can not do everything. So we need your help, and it won't cost you a penny. Two things. Firstly please pray and ask God for wisdom in the direction of Aftershock, and when he speaks to you lets us know, through the second thing which we need your help with. That second thing is to go to [Aftershock.org.uk](http://Aftershock.org.uk) and complete the Urgent Survey. You won't miss it, as it is linked to from the front page. If you have never responded before, respond now, it could change the very direction of Aftershock. We have ten questions we need you to answer, and if you want to you only have to answer five. Ask yourselves is Aftershock worth five minutes of your time? We believe that God will use both you and us to spread his word, what we need to understand now is how best we can do that.

**Pray:**

Please Lord would you direct all that hear your word through Aftershock. Guide us in our responses to the survey and direct Aftershock in the direction you want it to go. Amen

**Action:**

In case you hadn't worked it our there is only one action today. Go to [Aftershock.org.uk](http://Aftershock.org.uk) and complete the survey. Oh and pray before you do. Bye for now.