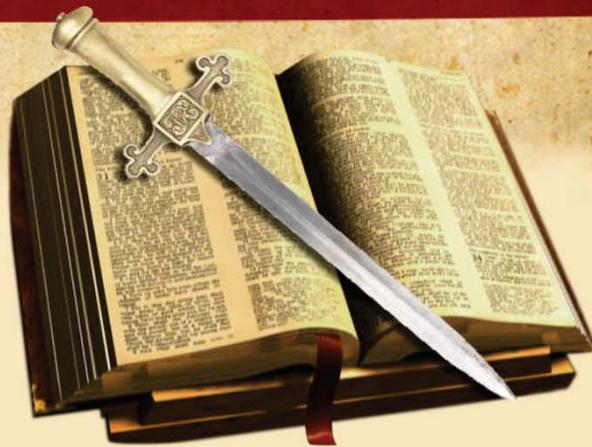


# Setting Your Heart

on the

# Kingdom



## 1 CORINTHIANS

### *Evangelism Shock... For Mature Audiences Only!*

*(The Principle of: All Things to All People By All Means)*

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

The tavern was filled with boisterous men and loose women. At one table were thieves and cutthroats dealing in blood money. But at another, you would find the Apostle Paul sharing the Gospel with strangers while eating meat that had been sacrificed to pagan idols. Had you been a Christian in those days, you would have been horrified to learn that such a revered man of God would frequent a disgraceful place like that. *Yet there he would be...winning Gentiles to God's Kingdom!*

The synagogue was buzzing with Jews and priests. It was the Sabbath...the holy day of the week. Had you been there, you would have heard scriptures read and songs of old sung to remind all of the greatness of God. You would have smelled the fragrance of incense and seen the sacrifices being brought for the atonement of sins. *And, in the midst of the throng, guess who would be there? The Apostle Paul dressed in his pharisaical robes...winning Jews to the Lord Jesus!*

Who, then, was this man called Paul? Was he a two-faced hypocrite? Was he playing both sides to gratify his own weaknesses? No, he was God's Evangelist...identifying with the world around him and doing the work of the Kingdom. *You see, some things are cardinal laws of the Faith that dare not be violated. But others are personal disciplines that make people "feel" religious. Paul knew the difference!*

**Christian businessman**, do you have a burden for the lost? Please don't quit your job to become a preacher! Your pulpit is at "happy hour" and your text is your unwavering character (*Philip. 2:15!*) **Factory worker**, do you want your co-workers to come to Christ? Before you invite them to church, become their friend. Go with them to the ball game and listen to their grievances. Then you can be salt and light (*Matt. 5:13-16*). **Pastor**, let your parishioners see God strengthening you in times of defeat...and then they'll trust your sermons (*2 Cor. 4:7-12*). No, you can't evangelize the lost until you can identify with them. *Paul became a witness without losing his soul (1 Cor. 9:27)! Thus he could say, "I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some."*

*Next: The Kingdom of God in 2 Cor....Spiritual Failure—In One Easy Step!*

