

28 Jun 2015 : Preached by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

**Topic: To Succeed in Christian Service**

Scripture Text: 1 Cor 9:19-27

1. The Apostle Paul preached the Gospel “free of charge” in giving up his own personal rights. He was greatly used by the Lord. How did Paul go about having a successful ministry for the Lord?
2. First, it is service with humility (v.19-21). The Apostle Paul made himself servant unto all. He did not lord over others but gave himself for the flock. This is the way of Christ which is the way of the cross. We must serve God in lowly humble service.
3. Second, it is service with flexibility (v.22-23). Paul said he made himself all things to all men, that he might by all means save some. This does not mean Paul made compromises to the Gospel and God’s Word. Paul was faithful to the Word of God. In areas like customs and culture where God’s Word is not compromised, Paul would be flexible to be like the people that he reached out to in order to identify with them.
4. Third, it is service with agony (v.24-27). The word “strive” in v.25 means to agonise. Serving the Lord comes with afflictions, trials, temptations and we must put on the whole armour of God.
5. The analogy given is one of an athlete who exerts every energy and strength in order to win the prize. To win the Christian race requires one to be disciplined, put away carnal desires, and focus fully on the Lord Jesus Christ in order to win our prize which is our spiritual rewards.