



## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“A Prayer for All Saints” | Rev. Josh Eby | April 29, 2018

### 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

**19** Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

**20** To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

**21** To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law.

**22** To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

**23** I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

### Intro

This was Josh Eby’s goodbye sermon and ultimate wish and charge for All Saints. Josh spent some time giving us his background into ministry as well as what he has seen and experienced at All Saints over the last 6 years. From Austin to Knoxville to Peru and back to Austin, God calls us to be many things to many people.

So as he leaves to embark on another chapter, Josh desires to see All Saints do 3 things: pursue a missionary calling; embody the whole Gospel to the whole person; fully participate in Gospel blessings.

### Background

This was a unique sermon as there wasn’t much discussion on the scripture passages. More time was spent reflecting on how All Saints has grown and changed over time – from deaths to births to marriages and divorces, to a new building and lots of growth and church planting of our own. The point of this is that change happens in so many ways. How can we adapt, as Paul discusses in 19-23, to change and variability.

### Discuss:

- 1.) Is there a 1 size fits all approach to pursuing our missionary calling wherever that may be? Can’t we be all things to all people? No doubt that it’s difficult to live out our faith in a postmodern world. Austin demographics continue to change and that doesn’t mean we cannot adapt (Austin is now 35% Latino).
- 2.) The Whole person is more than just individualistic. It’s corporate and cosmic. Jesus and the Gospel break INTO culture and through the barriers that we erect. This is the good news! He does this through the Church, through All Saints. We need to embody this in everything we do as a community.
- 3.) What does it look like to share in the blessings of the Gospel? First, we need to understand that God delights in giving us good gifts, like chocolate milk! He calls us to share in these blessings. Josh encourages us to do this by welcoming a stranger, serving the poor, helping an immigrant or widower, etc...Josh’s prayer for us is to be intentional about sharing our blessings from God.

### Conclusion/Application

Josh reminds us that we will experience another 6 years of ups and downs as our church continues to grow. More deaths and births and marriages and visitors and people moving away, but through it all, his hope is that we at All Saints would pursue our missionary calling, embody the whole Gospel of the whole person and fully participate in Gospel blessings.

By: Joel Pardue