

**ACCM**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020. **Topic: Letter to the Corinthians Parts 8-9**

**INTRODUCTION**: I get blessed everyday as we continue our study of the letters to the Corinthians. Today, we will continue with Chapters 8 and 9 of I Corinthians. As we dig deep into the letter to the Corinthians, let us not forget that Apostle Paul is still responding to what he was told by those that came to see him from the house of Chloe.

To eat or not to eat that seem to be the question. However, the real issue here is knowledge vs love. Here again in the Corinthian church, the challenge of the young Christina plus the challenge of knowledgeable Christian are brought to the fore. They were face with whether to eat the meat sacrificed to idols, or to buy them at the market, or to attend feast where the meat sacrificed to idols are been served. For clarity, the Greek and the Romans had a tradition of selling the excess meat which was served at public or government activities. This meat may have been sacrificed to an idol. I am not sure if they were sold at big discounted rates hence the attraction.

Outline:

1. How many of us have been confronted with this type of challenge in the past especially as young Christians?
2. What was Paul’s advice on how to handle this type of issue?
3. Knowledge vs love. I Cor 8: 1-2, I John 2:10, I Cor 13:13.
4. An idol is nothing I Cor 8:4-6, I John 3:20-21.
5. Knowledge alone might be insufficient to answer some of the challenges of life as it may not give us the best balance in life. I Cor 6:12. I Cor 8:11. Rom. 14:13-17, 20-21.
6. Do we consider that some of the things we do as a result of knowledge may actually be sin against God. I Cor 8:12.

In conclusion of chapter 8, can we relate this issue of food offered to idol to relationship in church?

Addendum to last BS.

**Introduction:** Beloved, after the last Bible study and from the ensuing questions, I realized that we had an unfinished task. As I teacher, I will not want to leave a situation hanging without an effective and balanced conclusion. That has brought me kind of backwards today to do justice to the topic which we discussed in Chapter 8. It is interesting that Apostle Paul also did the same thing by returning to the discussion in Chapter 10. So, by this today, we may just be concluding Chapter 10 of first Corinthians. Hereafter, we will go into chapter 9. However, this session may not be too interactive like we are used to. So please take your pens and write down your questions as I still do not want to run through this teaching without giving everyone the opportunity to fully understand and digest this topic. Before we continue can we all please take our bibles and read the following passages.

**Acts 15:19-20, 29, Rev 2:14, 20, I Cor 10:14-33.**

The issue here is that Corinthians adopted a legalistic view of this matter and Paul could see their perspective. You will find that it appears Apostle Pual was trying to rationalize three issues here which are knowledge, love and fear. First it is true that at the council in Jerusalem it was concluded that one of the things that the news disciples should do is to refrain from food sacrificed to demons. Secondly, we can see that Revelation tells us that one of the wrongs done by the churches in Pergamos and Thyatira was eating food sacrificed to idols. Which means the Lord does not like it and it is invariably a sin. But simply saying the bible says so will not matter so much to a people who holds strongly to logic. This will not make sense to them so Paul made it an argument of knowledge vs love since there was division in the matter. Some believed it and some did not.

Partaking in this food is injurious to the conscience and it is hated by God. The last part however is what if you do not know and lastly should we become slaves to fear because of food? Apostle Paul fixed these challenges by his conclusion in chapter 10 by saying we should not partake in food offered to demons lest we be fellowshipping with demons and making the Lord jealous. The food per se may not harm us but we will not be helping our conscience, the conscience of the young believer and we be upsetting the Lord by making Him jealous. In conclusion he tells us that we must not live in fear because truly an idol is nothing. Psalm 115:5, 135:6, Deut 4:28. To counter this, the Apostle tells us not to ask questions when we go to buy the meat from the market or when we are invited to a feast, we should not ask if the meat was sacrificed to an idol. However, if you happen to know please do not eat as you will be fighting your conscience and or wounding the conscience of the young believer and making the Lord jealous. However, if you do not know, please realize the authority you have as a believer and do not fear govern your life, live your life with peace and joy. If anyone or demons decides to harm you or indoctrinate you with food any anything whatsoever, he or she will be the one to suffer.

**Keep your spiritual altar really hot always so that any fly that lands in it will roast**.

The bible says the Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways Deut 28:7. Rom 8:31 says what then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Prov 26:2 says like a bird in flight, an undeserved curse does not come to rest.

The enemy has harassed many Christians too much. It is time to keep your battery hot. The scripture says in Isaiah 54:15 behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

**Chapter 9.**

Chapter 9 dealt with two major issues.

1. The acceptance of Paul by the Corinthians as an apostle. The way the apostle started chapter 9 appears frustrating and defensive. It is easy to see his contentions with the Corinthians over their acceptance of him as an apostle.
2. Financial support by the Corinthians; It is interesting that one of the reasons for which he was not seen as an apostle by some is supposed to be a good one. That reason is because he did not impress the need for financial support by the Corinthians upon the Corinthians. In other words he did not ask them to fund his ministry. To explain his points and reason, he went further to discuss what might be seen as the rights of a minister. If these are the rights of a minister why did he not assert them in Corinth?

This is a problem some leaders have to go through from time to time. This I may put as to support or not to support or to ask or not to ask. It is interesting that this issue of financial support for ministers is still an issue today.

OUTLINE:

1. Should ministers expect a physical reward for the work they are doing? I Cor 9:7, Exodus 25:4. Apostle Paul used the spiritual, the physical and the legal to explain this issue.

Paul used 4 issues to justify why those who preach the gispel should live by the gospel.

1. Normal daily examples. Verse 7-8, Prov 27:18.
2. Legal: 9-11 Deut 25:4
3. Prior situations: 12-13
4. Finally, he posed it that it was the Lord’s command: Luke 10:7-8.
5. Is it the minister’s right to be taken care of by the people he ministers to?
6. Why do we have challenges at times about financial rewards to ministers of the gospel? Humility and lack of understanding, ignorance of what ministry is about, wickedness, selfishness, excessive life style of some ministers
7. Who may have been the others referred to by Apostle Paul in verse 12?
8. When and why should ministers exercise caution in pushing for their financial rights? I Cor 9:15-18, Acts 18:6-8, not wanting to lose the nucleus of the gospel. I Cor 8:9-13, I Cor 9:22, I Cor 6:12, I Cor 10:23.
9. How did Paul survive in Corinth? Acts 18:3, II Cor 11:7-9, Phil 4:15.
10. Why did Apostle Paul not assert his rights in this situation? Verses 19-27 explains Apostle Paul’s strategy.
11. What should a minister do if he finds himself in Apostle Paul’s situation? I Thess 2:9, I Cor 4:12, II Cor 11:27, Eph 4:2, Gal 6:9.

*Thus, though Paul was ready to work when necessary, his highest priority was the proclamation of the gospel message. His decisions about working or not, were therefore to a degree pragmatic, based on what would facilitate the communication of his message best in a given time and place. However, Paul did decline financial support from those to whom he was proclaiming the gospel at the time. So he turned down subsidy from the Corinthian believers while in Corinth but accepted support from the Philippian believers for his ministry in Corinth*. Steve Walton (St Mary’s university)

1. In verses 18 Apostle Paul talks about preaching been a necessity but what was he referring to as something he will do willingly.

**CONCLUSION**: I have often heard people say that Apostle Paul supported himself by tent making. That is a misunderstood truth. Apostle Paul spent about 18 months in Corinth and he only supported himself through tent making for about 6 months and there were reasons for it. For the remaining period Paul was supported by gifts from external churches.

I have always posted that only the Christians can destroy Christianity. It may be destroyed through the behavior and greed of the ministers or through the lack of understanding of the believers. Ministry has always been work and it will remain work. We are the only ones that can destroy the ministry as the Children of Israel almost did when they returned from Babylon and the priests were neglected and so they returned to their farms. Neh. 13:10. I believe that if the church continues to treat ministers as beggars, many, not all, will return to their farms. Remnants will be left because the Lord will not leave a place without a witness.

Jesus did not have a farm neither did He have a house but He was been fed while He was on earth, His clothes were washed and he slept in houses. I believe He wants us to adopt same principles as His. There may be some differences in that He did not have a wife or children. That may make us to adjust His approach a little bit. However, the same principle of dependence on the served will still need to be adopted if the Gospel is to achieve its purpose in our dispensation. This principle has been supported from time of the laws to the prophets to the New Testament and it should not be broken as breaking it skews issues. May the Lord grant us wisdom and may the Lord find us dependable.