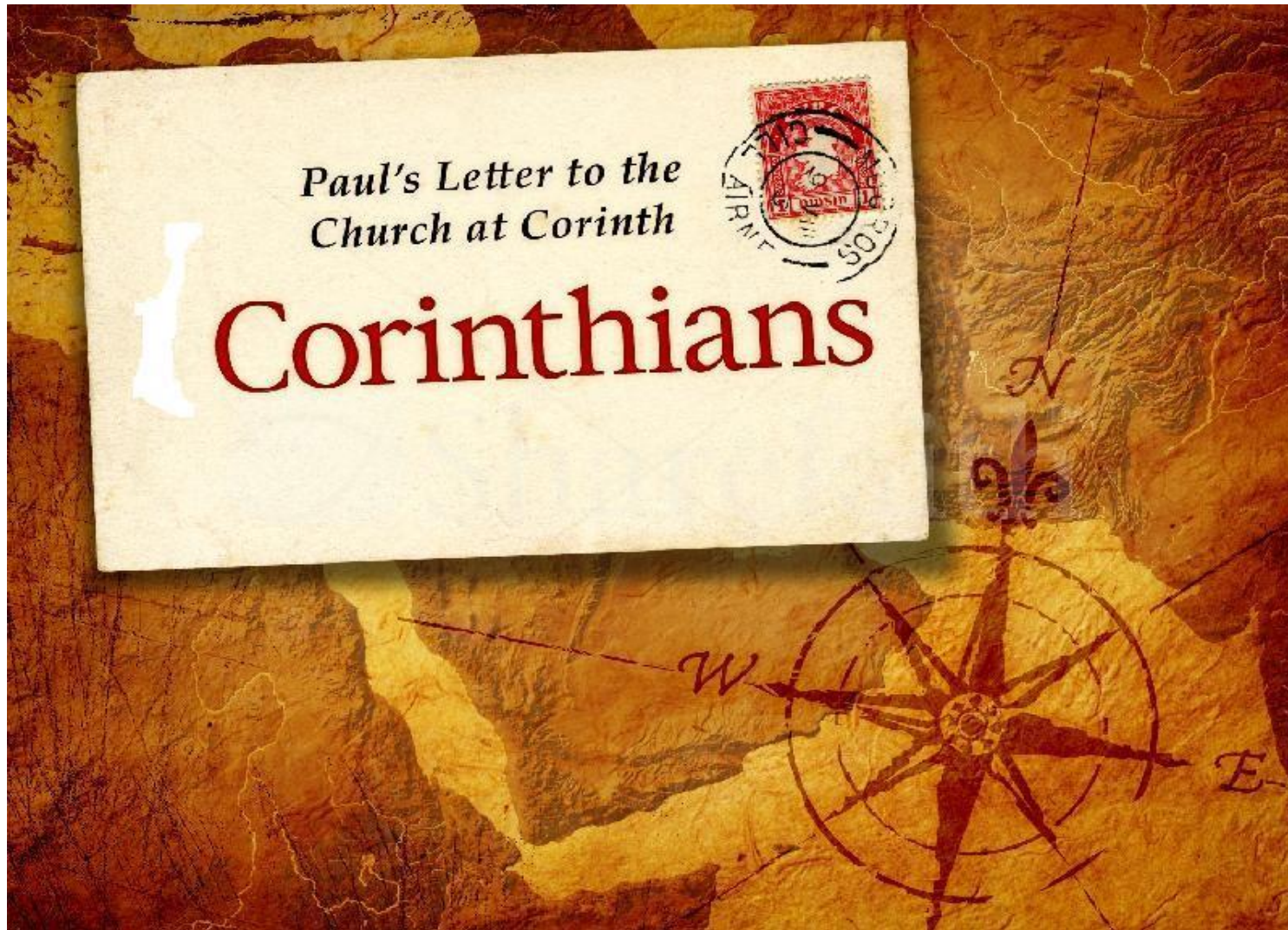


1 Cor. 8:9-13 What the Strong Believer Must Remember



Today's Outline*



The Problem of Knowledge 8:7-13

1. The Problem Stemming from One's Past 8:7a
2. The Problem Stemming from One's Conscience 8:7b
3. Things We All Must Remember 8:8-12
 - a. What the Weak Must Remember 8:8
 - b. What the Strong Must Remember 8:9-12
 - The "What" of Exercising Liberty 8:9-10
 - The "Who" of Exercising Liberty 8:11-12
4. The Consideration of Knowledge 8:13

* McCalley



⁸ But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.

but food will not commend us to God

commend - *paristēmi* - to place or set before someone, present, exhibit; is used of self-commendation

- next we are given more details of why eating a certain food is of no value to God

^{1st} - we are neither the worse if we do not eat

worse - *husteréō* - to be behind, inferior, to lack - Rom 3:23
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- neither do we come short or become any worse if we do not eat [it] Amplified

⁸ But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.



2nd - nor the better if we do eat

better - *perisseuō* - to be pre-eminent, superior

- eating [food offered to idols] gives us no advantage
Amplified
- Food has nothing whatsoever to do with our standing before God. Whether we eat is neither here nor there from that standpoint.
McCalley
- This truth [verse 8] should help a weak believer become strong. It will not immediately cure a weak conscience, however.
McCalley

Today's Verses



⁹ But take care that this liberty of **yours** does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

¹⁰ For if someone sees **you**, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?

¹¹ For through **your** knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died.

¹² And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, **you** sin against Christ.

¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, **I** will never eat meat again, so that **I** will not cause my brother to stumble.



How are we to use our knowledge from Scripture when dealing with a brother with a weak conscience?

- definition: a weak conscience is a conscience that has great difficulty in isolating the past - McCalley
- verse 8 gave us God's view of meat sacrificed to idols and what we as a believer should do about it
- verses 9 to 13 gives a strong warning to believer's who understand the truth of verse 8 (i.e. has knowledge) about their actions in eating meat sacrificed to idols which may cause a brother to stumble



⁹ But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

but take care that – but beware lest interlinear

beware – *blepō* - to see; sometimes used by way of warning "to take heed" (present, imperative)

- 1 Cor 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.
- The believer is not forbidden the use of his liberty, for this would be wrong. He is rather exhorted to be careful in the exercise of his liberty. McCalley

complete subject: this liberty of yours

complete verb: does not somehow become to the weak

subject complement: a stumbling block

9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.



this liberty of yours

liberty - *exousia* - authority, right – see John 1:12

- to have the right or authority to act - McCalley
- this liberty is the knowledge that “food will not commend us to God” from the context

does not somehow become to the weak

becomes - *ginomai* – coming into a new state of being

a stumbling block - *proskomma* - of the spiritual hindrance to another

- a stumbling block identifies the subject - liberty

¹⁰ For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?



For if someone sees you, who have knowledge,

- supposing the weak brother see you
- you are a strong believer who has accurate knowledge

dining in an idol's temple

- if you are dining it is assumed that you are eating meat sacrificed to idols
- also this seems to say that the problem was in the vicinity of the idol's temple

What things today might your fellow believer have a problem with?

10 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?



will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?

- will not the conscience of the one who is weak be built up to the place where he will be eating the things sacrificed to idols
- therefore the weak brother may violate his conscience
- the weak conscience focus is around his former life before he was a believer
- the weak brother does not want to do anything that might remind him of his former life

Wuest

11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined the brother for whose sake Christ died.



for - *gar* - indeed

subject: he who is weak

- his weak conscience rules his Christian life
- we are told this is “the brother for whose sake Christ died” or “on account of whom Christ died”
- we are all equal at the cross

verb: is ruined - *apollymi* - the idea is not extinction but loss, not of being, but of well-being

- lit: cannot reach the goal or deprived Merryman

modifier: through your knowledge

- this knowledge we saw in verse 8 - But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.

12 And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.



and so by sinning against the brethren

and when you sin against your brethren in this way Amplified

- this way = not being careful and about using your liberty
- using your liberty and knowing that it may offend your brother is a sin!
- James 4:17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.
- we have liberty to refrain from doing these things if they will trouble other people Ironside
- from verse 1 - love is to edify or build-up!!

¹² And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.



and wounding their conscience when it is weak,

wounding - *typtō* - figuratively, to strike against, meaning to offend

- Rom 14:20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.

you sin against Christ

- Sinning against your brother is sinning against Christ.
- You thwart the cause of Christ by sinning against your brother.

13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.



because of which very fact, since food makes my brother stumble,

Wuest

- the fact is that food makes my brother stumble
- the food is meat sacrificed to idols
- the problem is a weak conscience

I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.

- 1 Cor 10:23-24 All things are permissible but not all things are profitable or expedient. All things are permissible, but not all things promote growth in Christian character. Let no person be seeking his own good but that of the other person.

Wuest

Final Thoughts



At issue is the nature of the community [Christian community]. Is it a community where those with a correct theology can ignore others who have an aversion to eating the idol-consecrated food?

What must prevail is not the principle of superior knowledge but the realization that those who lack knowledge are those for whom Christ died (8:11). Edification takes precedence over freedom; the other person's advantage takes precedence over one's own (10:23-24).

Constable