

**"NOW CONCERNING"—**

*Reply To Their Letter –  
Liberty In Christ – 7:1-16:4*

**Flee Idolatry -  
Glorify God**

*1 Corinthians 10:14-33*



# QUESTIONS ABOUT THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS – (8:I-II:I)

**AN IMPORTANT ISSUE:**  
(ACTS 15:28,29; REV. 2:14,20)

- ✦ Meats offered to idols were used in the observance of pagan feast -
- ✦ Meats offered to idols were sold in the markets with other meat -
- ✦ These meats were purchased by individuals and thus used to entertain guest in their homes -



# QUESTIONS ABOUT THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS – (8:1-11:1)

**AN IMPORTANT ISSUE:**  
(ACTS 15:28,29; REV. 2:14,20)

- ✦ Could a Christian attend a banquet in an idols temple? (10:14-18)
- ✦ Could a Christian eat meat sacrificed to idols that he inadvertently bought at the market? (10:25)
- ✦ Could a Christian eat meat sacrificed to an idol in the home of an unbelieving friend? (10:27,28)





# QUESTIONS ABOUT THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS – (8:I-II:I)

## LESSONS FROM CHAPTERS 8 & 9

- ✦ Knowledge can puff up – but LOVE builds up – 8:1-3
- ✦ There is only one God – 8:4-7
- ✦ The importance of protecting the conscience – 8:7-8
- ✦ My primary concern in Christ is the brother for whom He died – 8:9-13



# QUESTIONS ABOUT THINGS OFFERED TO IDOLS – (8:1-11:1)

## LESSONS FROM CHAPTERS 8 & 9

- ✦ Paul, as an apostle, did not demand his “rights” - 9:1-3
- ✦ He refused to be supported for the furtherance of the gospel even though he had the right - 9:4-14
- ✦ Paul defended his "right" not to use his "rights": 9:15-23
- ✦ Self-control is demanded in the realm of personal liberty: 9:24-27





# LESSONS FROM HISTORY - (10:1-13)

## LESSONS FROM CHAPTER 10:1-13

- ◆ **Addressed to the strong** - While the consciences of the weak need to be strengthened - this chapter is a warning to the "strong" among the Corinthians who were arguing that they had the right to attend the feasts held in an idol's temple. (8:10)
- ◆ **Picking up the subject from chapter 9** - those who fail to exercise self-control, even in things morally indifferent, will fail to obtain the prize – (9:24-27)



# **LESSONS FROM HISTORY - (10:1-13)**

## **LESSONS FROM CHAPTER 10:1-13**

'At the back of this passage there lies the over-confidence of some of the Corinthian Christians. Their point of view was, "We have been baptized and we are therefore one with Jesus Christ; we have partaken of the Lord's Supper and therefore we have partaken of the body and blood of Christ; we are in Christ and Christ in us; therefore we are quite safe; we can eat meat offered to idols and take no harm; there is no possible danger for us." . . .



**Mike Willis**  
**Truth Commentary**  
**pp. 313-314**



# LESSONS FROM HISTORY - (10:1-13)



**Mike Willis**  
**Truth Commentary**  
**pp. 313-314**

## LESSONS FROM CHAPTER 10:1-13

“ . . . By recalling the example of Israel, Paul showed that being recipients of special privileges did not guarantee one's salvation. Thus, he showed that Israel had received a "baptism" and a "supper" just the same as the Corinthians had; nevertheless, the greater portion of them were lost.' ”



# **FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD**

## **1 Corinthians 10:14-33 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

<sup>15</sup> I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say. <sup>16</sup> The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

# FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

## 1 Corinthians 10:14-33 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread. <sup>18</sup> Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? <sup>19</sup> What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?



# **FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD**

## **1 Corinthians 10:14-33 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. <sup>21</sup> You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

# FREE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

**1 Corinthians 10:14-33 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He? <sup>23</sup> All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. <sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's *well-being*.



# FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

## 1 Corinthians 10:14-33 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake;  
<sup>26</sup> for "*the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness.*" <sup>27</sup> If any of those who do not believe invites you *to dinner*, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake.

# FREE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

## 1 Corinthians 10:14-33 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for *"the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness."* <sup>29</sup> "Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another *man's* conscience?



# FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

1 Corinthians 10:14-33 (NKJV)

<sup>30</sup> But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for *the food* over which I give thanks? <sup>31</sup> Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

# FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

## 1 Corinthians 10:14-33 (NKJV)

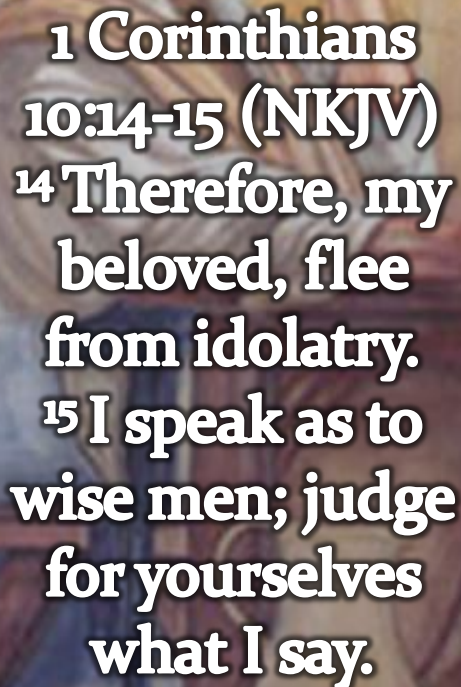
<sup>32</sup> Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, <sup>33</sup> just as I also please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

<sup>11:1</sup> Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.



# FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

JOINT ACTION = PARTICIPATION – (14-22)

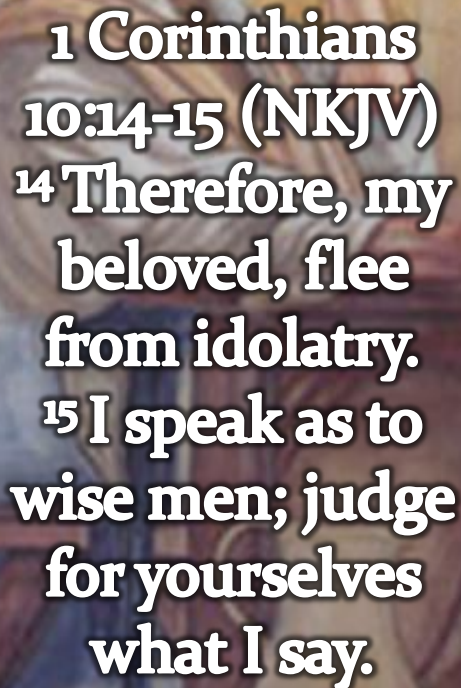


1 Corinthians  
10:14-15 (NKJV)  
<sup>14</sup> Therefore, my  
beloved, flee  
from idolatry.  
<sup>15</sup> I speak as to  
wise men; judge  
for yourselves  
what I say.

- ◆ 'my beloved' - 'is strongly affectionate and urgently pleading.' (Lenski p. 406)
- ◆ 'flee idolatry' - '*continue to flee*' – (14; 10:7; 2 Cor. 6:17; 1 John 5:21) 'They should not see how near they can come to idolatry without partaking in it, . . . (Erdman p. 105)
  - ❖ Flee fornication – 1 Cor. 6:18
  - ❖ Flee love of money – 1 Tim. 6:11

# FREE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

**JOINT ACTION = PARTICIPATION – (14-22)**



**1 Corinthians  
10:14-15 (NKJV)  
14 Therefore, my  
beloved, flee  
from idolatry.  
15 I speak as to  
wise men; judge  
for yourselves  
what I say.**

- ◆ 'as to wise men' - Since the Corinthians had prided themselves in their understanding of things, and surely had intimated a much as their letter to him, Paul allows: "I speak as to sensible people." (Fee p. 464)
- ◆ 'judge ye what I say' - God's commands and restrictions make perfect sense when scrutinized. It is the "sensible" course of action -



# **FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD**

**JOINT ACTION = PARTICIPATION – (14-22)**

**1 Corinthians 10:16-17  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>16</sup>The cup of blessing  
which we bless, is it not  
the communion of the  
blood of Christ? The  
bread which we break,  
is it not the  
communion of the  
body of Christ?**

- ◆ 'cup of blessing'-the fruit of the vine in the Lord's Supper.
- ◆ 'which we bless'-(11:24; Mat 26:26)
- ◆ 'communion'-2842. koinonia partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, . . . fellowship.
- ◆ 'of the blood of Christ'-'lit., a participation in the blood of Christ.' (Robertson p. 154)
- ◆ 'The bread which we break' - (Acts 20:7)

# FREE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

**JOINT ACTION = PARTICIPATION – (14-22)**

**1 Corinthians 10:16-17  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>17</sup> For we, *though* many,  
are one bread *and* one  
body; for we all partake  
of that one bread.**

When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper, they are demonstrating that they share and enjoy the benefits of Christ's death. 'Since, therefore, the cup is specifically interpreted by the Lord (cf. Mark 14:24), and continued to be so understood in the early church (1 Cor. 11:25), as "my blood of the new covenant), this language almost certainly refers to their sharing in the provisions and benefits of that covenant.' (Fee p. 468)



# **FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD**

**JOINT ACTION = PARTICIPATION – (14-22)**



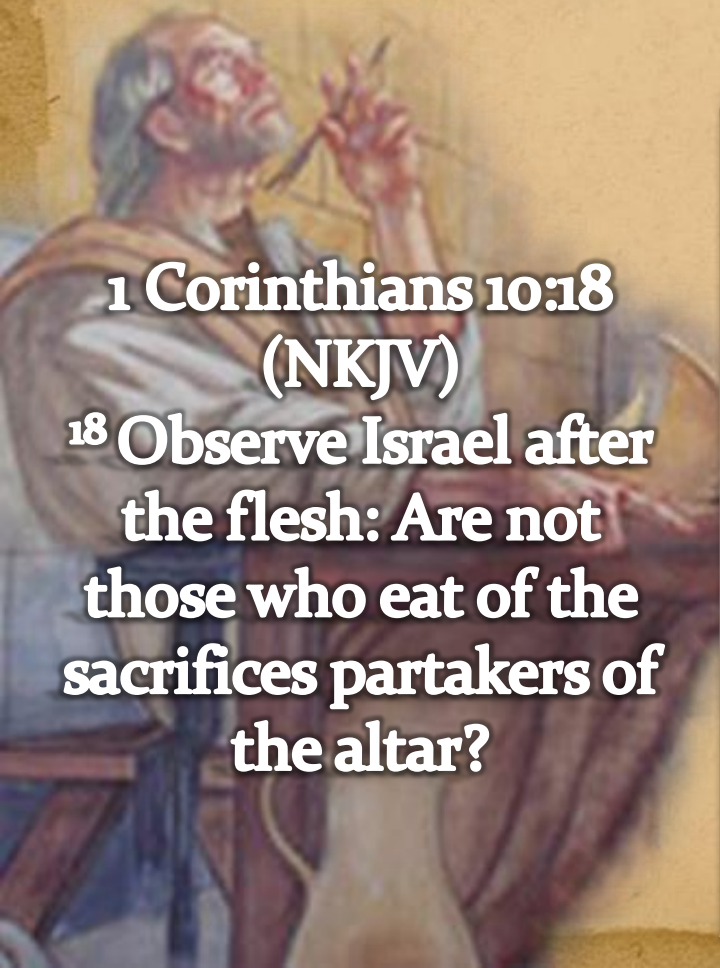
**1 Corinthians 10:18  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>18</sup> Observe Israel after  
the flesh: Are not  
those who eat of the  
sacrifices partakers of  
the altar?**

- ◆ **A second argument:** - In Leviticus, the priest had his portion and the suppliant another, while God had his portion on the altar; again, mutual participation in the offering.
- ◆ **"eat the sacrifices"** - refers to the meal that followed the actual sacrifice, in which they together ate portions of the sacrificial food. (Deut. 14:22-27)' (Fee p. 470)

# **FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD**

**JOINT ACTION = PARTICIPATION – (14-22)**



**1 Corinthians 10:18  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>18</sup> Observe Israel after  
the flesh: Are not  
those who eat of the  
sacrifices partakers of  
the altar?**

- ✦ They understand the "fellowship/communion" which Christians share in when they partake of the Lord's Supper.
- ✦ And the same truth was seen in O.T. sacred meals. (10:18)
- ✦ Why can't they see that the same principle of "fellowship" also is found in the pagan meals, which they were claiming they had the right to attend. (10:19-20)



# **FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD**

**JOINT ACTION = PARTICIPATION – (14-22)**



**1 Corinthians 10:18  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>18</sup> Observe Israel after  
the flesh: Are not  
those who eat of the  
sacrifices partakers of  
the altar?**

- ◆ The Corinthians were trying to draw a false distinction between "participation" and "fellowship".
- ◆ They were arguing that they could participate in the temple feasts, without having "fellowship" with the false religion being celebrated.
- ◆ Paul says, does that make sense?

# FREE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

**JOINT ACTION = PARTICIPATION – (14-22)**



**1 Corinthians 10:19-20  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>19</sup> What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?**

- ◆ Does that mean that the food itself brings us into a relationship with an idol? No.
- ◆ But to eat it in the temple, in the midst of their worship, is to participate in their fellowship.
- ◆ To do that is to participate in the veneration of demons.



# **FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD**

**JOINT ACTION = PARTICIPATION – (14-22)**



**1 Corinthians 10:19-20  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>20</sup> Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.**

- ✦ While no real gods existed behind the idols, evil powers did!  
'Idolatry, was, above everything, inspired by Satan.' (Gr. Ex. N.T. p. 865)
- ✦ Idolatry, like all forms of perverted Christianity are Satan's attempt to cloud the truth and turn people away from God. (2 Cor. 11:13-15; 1 Timothy 4:1-3 'doctrines of demons')

# FREE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

**JOINT ACTION = PARTICIPATION – (14-22)**



**1 Corinthians 10:19-20  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>20</sup> Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.**

'To gather as a body to commune with the body of Christ is to speak on behalf of Christ. To gather with idolaters to sacrifice to their gods (*which are the product of the doctrines of demons*) is to speak in favor of darkness. The believer is joining demons in the work of darkening the minds of men.'  
(McGuiggan p. 137)



# **FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD**

**JOINT ACTION = PARTICIPATION – (14-22)**

**1 Corinthians 10:21-22  
(NKJV)**

**<sup>21</sup> You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.**

**<sup>22</sup> Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?**

- ◆ Just like you "cannot" serve two masters. (Matthew 6:24)
- ◆ To have fellowship with God, one must cease fellowship with evil! – (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1)
- ◆ To continue eating at both meals, will arouse the Lord's jealousy, as Israel did in the desert?' (Fee p. 473) (Deut. 32:17,21)
- ◆ "jealousy" - God will allow no rivals to his devotion.' (Ex 20:5)

# **FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD**

## **CONCERNING MARKETPLACE FOOD – (23-30)**

**1 Corinthians 10:23-24**  
**(NKJV)**

**23 All things are lawful  
for me, but not all  
things are helpful; all  
things are lawful for  
me, but not all things  
edify.**

**24 Let no one seek his  
own, but each one the  
other's well-being.**

◆ **“All things are lawful”** – cf. 6:20 –  
Not inclusive of things God has  
said are unlawful, or things not  
authorized.

◆ **All things are not helpful or  
edify** - "freedom" does not mean  
"to seek my own good"; it means to  
be free in Christ in such a way that  
one can truly seek to benefit and  
build up another person.' (Fee p.  
479)



# FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

## CONCERNING MARKETPLACE FOOD – (23-30)

### 1 Corinthians 10:25-27 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake;  
<sup>26</sup> for "*the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness.*" <sup>27</sup> If any of those who do not believe invites you *to dinner*, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake.

# FREE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

## CONCERNING MARKETPLACE FOOD – (23-30)

### 1 Corinthians 10:28-30 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for *"the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness."* <sup>29</sup> "Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another *man's* conscience? <sup>30</sup> But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for *the food* over which I give thanks?

**1 Tim 4:4-5; the thankfulness, rather than the creation aspect in 8:6, is emphasized.**



# FLEE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

DO ALL TO GLORIFY GOD – (31-33)

## 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 (NKJV)

<sup>31</sup> Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, <sup>33</sup> just as I also please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.





# FREE IDOLATRY – GLORIFY GOD

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