

Sunday, January 22, 2017—I Corinthians 8:1-6: Concerning Things Offered Unto Idols

Introduction

- This morning we are going to be starting our study of I Corinthians 8 where Paul begins to answers some of the Corinthians' questions regarding Christian liberty.

I Corinthians 8:1-3

- **Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. 2) And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. 3) But if any man love God, the same is known of him.**
- Paul and the Corinthians knew all about the meat that had been offered/scarified unto idols and sold in the markets places of Corinth.
 - Acts 15:29
 - Acts 21:25
- As Paul preached the gospel he encountered the idolatry of the gentiles firsthand. He knew all about their practices and rituals.
 - Acts 14:11-15
 - Acts 17:16, 22-23
- Acts 18:11—having spent 18 months ministering in the city of Corinth, Paul knew well the idolatrous practices of the city.
 - I Corinthians 5:11
 - I Corinthians 6:9-10
 - I Corinthians 10:14
- I Corinthians 8:1—having knowledge about “things offered unto idols,” we see right away that this is yet another topic that the Corinthians were “puffed up” with respect to.
 - I Corinthians 4:6, 18-19—please recall for prior studies that the word “puff” means to inflate, blow up, to cause to swell up.
 - I Corinthians 5:2

- I Corinthians 8:1—rather than walking in charity with respect to “things offered unto idols” the Corinthians had been walking in their customary pride. As we will see in our study of the chapter, some of the brethren are described as weak with respect to this topic.
 - I Corinthians 8:10-13
- The stronger saints were not walking in a charitable way towards the weaker saints rather they were functioning out of pride.
- I Corinthians 8:2—in verse 1 the Corinthians had knowledge of “things offered unto idols” and were therefore “puffed up” as a result of that knowledge. In verse 2 Paul basically tells them, “As soon as you think you know something your really don’t.” Notice that they don’t “yet” know what they “ought to know.” Therefore, we can conclude that the neophyte knowledge they were functioning out of with respect to this topic needed to be corrected and thus why Paul is addressing the issue in chapter 8.
- I Corinthians 8:3—note the contrasting word “but” at the beginning of verse three. In contrast to the person who thinks he knows everything and functions out his/her “puffed up” understanding and is therefore known as a egotist they one who loves God and focuses on walking according to charity will be known accordingly. The mere acquisition of knowledge does not impress God.

I Corinthians 8:4

- **As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that *there is none other God but one.***
- The first things that Paul calls to our attention with respect to meat scarified to idols is that “an idol is nothing in the world.”
 - Psalm 115:4-7
 - Daniel 5:23-30
 - Acts 17:24-25
 - I Corinthians 12:2
- *and that there is none other God but one*—the point here is that all the gentile gods and idols are fake. They are not real. There is only one true living God.

I Corinthians 8:5

- **For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)**
- Despite of the fact that they are all fake, Paul acknowledges the fact that there are many that are called gods in heaven and earth.
 - Romans 1:21-25—mankind exchanges creature worship for the worship of the Creator.
 - Acts 14:11-15—not the difference between the living God and the dumb idols of the gentiles.

I Corinthians 8:6

- **But to us *there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.***
- Paul contrasts the views of the gentiles who worship the gods with believers who acknowledge one God who made all things and the Lord Jesus Christ by whom all things were made.
 - Genesis 1:1
 - John 1:1-3
 - Colossians 1:16-17
- Notice that verse 6 asserts that we are in God the Father. But it also asserts how we got to be in him. It was by him i.e., the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Romans 3:24
 - Colossians 1:14
 - Colossians 3:3