

Called to answer challenge of helping the weak

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which centered around eating meats that had been dedicated to pagan gods. Two issues that the Corinthians struggled with were: First, since most meat sold in the market would have been sacrificed to a pagan god, was it permissible to purchase such meat? Second, was a Christian permitted to attend the activities of the pagan temple, where various social functions were held?

In today's time, we, as believers, have concerns as well. Similar modern questions which may be of concern to us would be: Can we purchase products from a company that also makes things that promote sinful lifestyles? Can we attend social events where things will be done that we consider wrong?

Here, in this lesson on idols,

Paul laid down some important principles that are relevant to a number of practical concerns believers still face today

2. What kind of "knowledge" was Paul dealing with? What does knowledge tend to lead to? (vs. 2)

The person who thinks he knows all about the issues under consideration does not really know all he needs to know. In their letter to Paul, the Corinthians may have indicated that they knew the answer to the question before they asked it. If so, they were, in fact, revealing that they did not know as much as they thought they did!

As Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goeth before destruction." The person who is proud of his knowledge "knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know" (1 Cor. 8:2).

Conversely, the person who truly loves God wants to please Him and do what is best for his neighbor. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10). Proceeding on the basis of knowledge alone leads to pride; proceeding on the basis of love with knowledge leads to the edification of the body of Christ.

3. How is love for God shown? (vs. 3)

Love for God is shown through obedience (John 14:15, 15:10). The love principle would lead the Corinthians to chose the most loving response when facing such debatable issues as eating meats offered to idols

The Knowledge Principle

4. As far as Paul was concerned, what was an idol? (vs. 4) As we look at this verse,

and the question which was raised regarding the eating of those things that were offered in sacrifice unto idols, Paul stated "we know that an idol is nothing". Here Paul was demonstrating that he along with those believers strong in the faith knew that "idols" had no power. They were just merely images, made from wood or stone unable to bring about an effect one way or the other. They had no power to bring about good or evil. Paul even went on to say that a lot

of the images were called "gods" and were outright fakes and/or manifestations of demons, but none were truly gods.

5. For Christians, how is Christ viewed compared to idols? (vs. 6)

For the Christian, there is only "one God, the Father" (1 Cor. 8:6), and one Lord (Eph. 4:5), Jesus Christ, "the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16). Paul was presenting the Father and the Son as equal in substance (cf. John 14:7-9)

and power (cf. John 1:1-9).

Those who reject the knowledge of the true God quickly turn to idolatry (Rom. 1:20-23). Many missionaries testify that idolatry is alive and well in today's world. Millions still bow before gods made of "gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device" (Acts 17:29).

Obama urges embrace of faith

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increasingly shown themselves to be a force on Capitol Hill, on issues such as immigration and the federal budget. He also said individual churches such as his own sponsor day care programs, build senior centers, help ex-prisoners and rebuild hurricane-ravaged areas.

"No matter how religious they may or may not be, people are tired of seeing faith used as a tool to attack and belittle and divide, they're tired of hearing folks deliver more screed than sermon," he said.

Obama, while only a freshman senator, has often been mentioned as a prospect for the

Democrats' national ticket in 2008 or later: He is one of his party's best speakers and most requested fundraisers, and he has crisscrossed the nation drawing financial support to candidates who are potentially future allies.

Earlier this year, on national television, he said he would serve out his Senate term and would not run for president or vice president in 2008.

"Nothing has changed," Obama spokesman Tommy Vietor said Wednesday. "The speech reflects his desire to welcome more people of faith into the Democratic Party. Viewing this speech—and everything Barack does—through an '08 lens does a disservice to the message of the speech and to his work in the Senate."



Obama

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"THE TEACHER'S CLINIC" (Part I)
J.M. Little, Teacher

Editor's Note: Over the years, many questions have arisen as a result of our teaching. In our Teacher's Clinic, we are providing some answers as the Lord has given us grace and taught us. (Isa. 54:13)

Q: You sent us to Matthew 16:17 to see that Salvation is the Revelation of Christ. My wife and I read that Scripture, but we didn't see anything about the revelation of Christ. Can you explain this to us?

A: "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Cor. 2:14) You and your wife cannot see that Salvation is the revelation of Christ because you are natural hearts trying to understand spiritual things. Ask the Lord to give you the New Birth.

Q: My pastor teaches that there is only one doctrine in the Bible. You teach that there are many others. Why?

A: There are 7 basic doctrines taught in God's eternal Word. But there are many others. The 7 basic doctrines are: 1) The Sovereignty of God, 2) The Total Depravity Of Man, 3) Salvation By Grace, or Blood Redemption In Christ, 4) The Person and Work Of Christ, 5) The Person And Work Of The Holy Spirit, 6) Satan The Arch Enemy, and 7) The Second Coming Of Christ. And you can learn all these doctrines under Holy Spirit Conviction.

Q: Why do you teach like you are the only one saved?

A: Salvation in Christ, my Lord and my Redeemer, is personal.

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