

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****I CORINTHIANS 8*****I Corinthians 8***

The Church at Corinth was filled with people who had been steeped in secular philosophies, mysticism, and idol worship fostered through the system of Greek and Roman mythology. Many of the people in the church were very sensitive to not wanting anything to do with anything associated with the life they once lived. Paul says,

***"So about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world, and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many so-called gods and lords), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we exist. And there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we exist."*** (I Corinthians 8:1-4)

The food that was offered to idols would be sold in the marketplace in Corinth. This is how the people who served as leaders or priests of these ancient religions and practices lived and supported themselves. For those who had lived under these false religions and had practiced these sacrifices, it was a problem for the

people they worshiped with to buy meat from the agora that had been offered to heathen deities. Paul said to the church, we know that idols have no life and that they are unable to do anything in relation to the worshipers who offer sacrifices to them, however, it is more important for the believers to consider the welfare and conscience of those brothers and sisters than to get a good bargain on a piece of meat. After all, it is just that, a piece of meat. What we eat will not make us godly or ungodly, but what we eat or drink may offend and hurt the weak conscience of a brother or sister, and so, therefore, we must consider not causing a brother or sister to stumble because of what we practice. Therefore, the Apostle lays out another principle of the Christian life and the liberty we have in the Lord Jesus.

***Principle of eating and drinking: "Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to stumble."*** (I Corinthians 8:13)

ON THE WAY

***Prayer and Action Steps***

*Lord, please let me live so that I am aware of those around me, and please help me to not use the liberty I have in Jesus Christ in any way that might harm someone with a weaker conscience than me. Lord, help me to remember that my appetite is not as important as the conscience of another. Amen*