



## MESSAGE/SERIES:

*Restoration Series* “For the Love of the Gospel”

**DATE:** January 19, 2020

## SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

**1 Corinthians 8-9**, Romans 2:20 (embodiment of knowledge), **Galatians 4:9** (Known by God), 2 Corinthians 4:4-5 (god of this world), 1 Thessalonians 1:9, **Matthew 15:11** (not what goes in the defiles), Matthew 22:37-40, Romans 14, 1 Timothy 5:18 (Minister and wages), Romans 11:17-18 (Root supports us)

## OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[1 Corinthians 8-9]

*“Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.*

*2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.*

*3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.*

*4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.”*

*5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—*

*6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.*

7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their **conscience, being weak, is defiled.**

8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.

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

10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols?

11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.

12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?

2 If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

3 This is my defense to those who would examine me.

4 Do we not have the right to eat and drink?

5 Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?

7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

8 Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same?

9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "**You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.**" Is it for oxen that God is concerned?

10 Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop.

11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?

12 If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but **we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.**

13 Do you not know that **those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple**, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?

14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that **those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel**.

15 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.

16 For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. **For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!**

17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.

18 **What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.**

19 For though I am free from all, **I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.**

20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.

21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.

22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.**

23 **I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.**

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

25 **Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.** They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable.

26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.

27 **But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.**

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## BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

**(8:1) “Knowledge”= acquaintance with**, knowledge of (Lk 1:77); **2. LN 28.17 knowledge**, the content of what is known (Ro 2:20; 1Co 8:1); **3. LN 28.19 esoteric knowledge**, religious or philosophical knowledge (1Ti 6:20), for another interp, see prior; **4. LN 32.16 understanding**, perception, comprehension (Lk 11:52)

James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

**(8:1) “Puffs up”=** to make proud, inflate the ego of the knower

**(8:7) “Meat** was unavailable to most Corinthians who were not well-to-do except at the pagan festivals, when it was doled out to the masses. Many of the socially powerless (the “weak”) thus inevitably associated meat with idolatry.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 1 Co 8:7.

**(8:9) “Jewish teachers considered causing someone to “stumble”** from the way of God worse than killing that person, because it deprived the person of the life of the world to come.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 1 Co 8:9.

**(8:10) “in an idol’s temple”-** reference to seeing the known believer in the false gods temple and not just the food reference... (places we are found)

**(8:11) “is destroyed”** Spiritual damage to one’s faith to the point of irreparability

**(8:12) “wounding”** emotionally, Spiritually and is connected to the idea of verse 11

**(8:12) Conscience** - the psychological faculty that distinguishes between right and wrong, *i.e.*, moral sensitivity

James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

**(8:13) “Stumble”** to cause someone to be spiritually weak and cause them to sin

**(9:1) “workmanship”** a product produced by the work of another (in this case people affected by the Spirit through Paul’s life)

(9:9) “**Muzzle**” Leather or wire covering for an animal’s mouth to prevent its eating or biting. Deuteronomy 25:4 is one of many laws in the Deuteronomic code concerned with humane treatment of others. Paul cited this prohibition of muzzling a treading ox to illustrate the principle that “the laborer is worthy of his pay” and specifically that “those who preach the gospel should earn their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:9–14; 1 Tim. 5:17–18 HCSB).

Chad Brand et al., eds., “Muzzle,” *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 1162.

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Exercising our Christian Liberties can cause others to sin and do irreparable damage...

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However, Because we have the Love of God in our hearts we seek to Love the Gospel through Surrendering our liberties and instead Serve one another which means Subjecting all that we are to the Lord...

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## **OUTLINE:**

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### **I. (8:1-7) We seek to Love *that is* Set in Opposition of Knowledge Alone**

- A. (v1) Spiritual Knowledge Puffs up
- B. (v2) Spiritual Knowledge is never complete
- C. (v3) To be known by God is evidenced by our love for Him
- D. (v4-6) Spiritual knowledge of the One true God
  1. *Saving Knowledge/Faith*
  2. *Strong Faith/deeper Faith/growing Faith*

## II. (8:7-13) We seek to Love, *willfully* Surrendering our Liberties

- A. (v7) Lay down liberties for the sake of the baby believer (**weaker conscience**)
  - 1. *Conscience is Defiled*
    - a) Made dirty (DBL Greek)
      - (1) **Answer to problem of weak defiled conscience=**  
**1 Timothy 1:5** In our growth the better understanding of God's word clears the conscience as we know what pleases God
  - 2. *Eating meat or not eating the meat Has no eternal bearing (God is ok with it)*
  - 3. *Not eating does not get us closer to God in any way (Loved regardless)*
- B. (v9-13) Our liberties can become a **stumbling block** for the baby believer
  - 1. (v10) *The fact that they see you there knowing you are a follower of Christ may be too much for them to bear (see in the idol's temple)*
    - a) God does not condemn the mature believer for being there necessarily... he may not be worshipping but witnessing??
      - (1) we should not judge, but the young believer may not be ready for that
  - 2. (v10) The action of the mature believer may tempt the young believer to actually sin (as the temptation takes them back to an old lifestyle)

## III. (9:1-23) We seek to Love, *willfully* Serving All

- A. (v1-6) Paul gives examples of the God given liberties he has (Eating what he wants, Drinking, Marriage, and getting Paid to minister in the church)
- B. (v7-15) The example and principle of Paying the Minister to minister in the church is put forward here
  - 1. *The Law of Moses stated that the Minister should partake of the offering (Deuteronomy 18, 26)*
  - 2. *Paul refers to God's commands in 1 Timothy 5:17-18*
    - a) *Don't muzzle the mouth of the speaker (keep him from speaking due to ability to study and give the pulpit the time that is needed)*
    - b) *God says His minister deserves to be paid (varies in different cultures as to how this applies practically due to ability of the congregation)*
- C. (v16-19) Paul makes it know that he doesn't preach for the money or doesn't boast in his rights as a minister
  - 1. (v16) *Rather he preaches out of deep desire and necessity "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel"*

2. (v17-19) *Rather his reward is to reach more and more*
  - a) *for Christ in salvation*
  - b) *In Christ to maturity*
- D. (v20-23) Paul for the sake of those he ministered to met them where they were
  1. *In their maturity level (setting aside liberties when needed)*
  2. *In their culture (practicing/functioning in ways that aided their hearing as long as it did not contradict the word of God)*
  3. (v23) *All that he did was for the sake of the Gospel of Christ Alone (Sole motivator)*

#### **IV. (9:24-27) We seek to Love, willfully Subjecting All**

- A. (v24-26) Paul give the example of an athlete preparing his body for a race (likewise we prepare spiritually and physically to serve God now)
- B. (v24) “only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it...” The body of Christ is the one obtaining it and not the individual
  1. *We run/serve to benefit the whole body*
- C. (v26) Everything we do matters and we must be aware of our brothers and sisters when it comes to our liberties
- D. (v27) When we are aimless many times we can affect our ability to serve the people God has placed us in front of due to neglect of responsibility in guarding them

-----Message from Pastor Michael-----  
Church,

God has called us to sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel; for the love of the Lord and His Gospel. What have you sacrificed in order that the Gospel can go forward unhindered in your life? We sacrifice to save up for vacations. We sacrifice short term things in order to reach goals in life, but what have we given up out of love for God and His mission that is pure?

God has given us freedoms in this life. Things that were sin under the law are not sin for us now, but will you give up some of your freedom and liberties for the sake of a brother or sister whom you might mortally wound? There are personal convictions and then there is a spiritual awareness that is out of a love for the Lord and His church... this is a Love that overcomes selfish pursuit. This is the next level of love in the body that meets in the Renfrew Community.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Michael

