

Sermon Notes – March 18, 2018

Review

- ⇒ I Corinthians is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth, one of the most troubled churches described in the New Testament. They had problems with divisions, know-it-alls, sexual immorality, worship practices, and false teaching.
- ⇒ Last week we heard a warning to be careful what we worship. One reason is that “_____ like what we worship.” Further, false gods can’t deliver on what they promise, including modern -day idols like money and possessions...they can’t deliver the _____ they promise.

Today’s Text: I Corinthians 10:14-33

Today’s text concludes a broader section that began in 8:1 by addressing a pressing cultural issue – whether or not a Christian should eat food that had previously been part of a pagan ceremony. Paul agrees that there’s nothing wrong with such food, but also encourages “more mature” believers to yield their rights to care for those with tender consciences. Today’s text reminds us that God’s glory is more important than anything else.

Glorify God by Finding Your Identity in Him (14-22)

(Start at v. 31 & refer to the OT displays of the glory of God; “Glorify” = point to the glory of God; bring honor to God)

- ⇒ For a Christian, your _____ is “in Christ” – not your denomination, not your political persuasion, not your favorite hobby-horse, nothing else. By being “in Christ,” you’re also part of His _____, the Church. You’re in a new _____ that God intends will be part of your growth in holiness. (14-18)
- ⇒ Celebrating communion is an act that reminds you of your identity, just as other people “eat at other tables” that point to *their* core identity. We need to do our best to make sure that our “_____” don’t compromise our identification with Christ. (19-20) (Illustration: Doug Anderson, UIM)

The Glory of God is Worth Everything
I Corinthians 10:14-33
Pastor Jay Mosser

- ⇒ Paul’s point: Is your life *really* defined by what you eat? Are your *personal rights* more important than other people? If so, Christ & His _____ are not truly defining your life. Remember 9:23?
- ⇒ On a practical level, how you spend your money, your time, and your passions (and your social media profile) reveal what you’re REALLY all about.

Glorify God by Seeking the Good of Others (23-30)

- ⇒ “All things are lawful” is a phrase that some people are using to assert their rights, ignoring other people’s concerns. Paul mentions this in 6:12 as well, underscoring the same issue – “Just because you *can* do something, doesn’t mean you should.” (23-24)
- ⇒ Seeking the good of a neighbor might mean choosing *not* to make something an issue or honoring a person with a weaker conscience. (25-28)
- ⇒ It’s not good to have a _____ conscience (i.e. I Timothy 4:2), but neither is it good to have an _____ conscience (i.e. I Corinthians 5:9-13). Paul’s advice to those with a weaker or over-active conscience would be, “Keep your eyes on your own plate.” (See a similar conversation in Rom. 14)

Responding to God’s Word (10:31-11:1)

- ⇒ This section closes with three imperatives: “Do all to the glory of God ...Give no offense...Be imitators of me.”
- ⇒ Earlier in this letter (1:16) Paul points out that many people see the cross of Jesus as foolishness and take offense. His point here (10:32) is that followers of Jesus should not be *needlessly* offensive. If someone is going to be offended with us, let it be Christ that they’re offended at, not our poorly chosen words or personal pride or secondary issues.
- ⇒ At the end of time itself, GOD *will* be honored above all and through all:
 - Obadiah 21 – “and the kingdom shall be the Lord’s”
 - II Peter 3:18 – “to Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.”
 - Revelation 11:15 – “the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of the Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.”