

A TEMPERANCE LESSON

1 Cor. 8 : 4-13. Study 1 Cor. 8 : 1-13—Memory Verses, 8, 9.

Golden Text—Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace.—Rom. 14 : 19.



shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols ;

11 And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died ?

12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Soon after Paul left Corinth, the Gentile believers there fell to quarrelling among themselves as to whether certain things that they had done as heathen must be given up now that they were Christians.

Having no one to guide them, they sent a letter to Paul asking him, amongst other things, these questions, "What shall we do about meats that we know have been offered to idols, but which are afterwards taken and sold in the shops? Are we free to eat them or shall we not eat them?"

Also, "Is it right for us who are Christians ever to attend heathen feasts or to go to dinner at the houses of our heathen friends and relatives, and so run the risk of eating food that has been used in heathen worship?"

Now some of the Corinthians looked upon

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.*

5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

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.

7 Howbeit, *there is not in every man that knowledge* : for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat *it* as a thing offered unto an idol ; and their conscience being weak is defiled.

8 But meat commendeth us not to God : for neither, if we eat, are we the better ; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.

9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

10 For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are

these questions as foolish, saying that they knew that an idol was only a piece of silver or gold, and that since they had come to worship the one true God, it made no difference whether their food had been set before the idols or not.

When Paul received their letter and knew how they had been disputing and quarrelling, he was much grieved with the Corinthians and sent them this message, that above all things they should try to live together in peace and love.

As to the question of eating foods that had been used in heathen worship, Paul wrote that if they were sure that an idol was nothing and were clear in their own minds that there was no other god but the one true God who had made heaven and earth, then there was no harm to themselves in eating