

ways of treating this man. One is to go on eating the sacrificial meat; this would encourage him to disobey his conscience. The other is to abstain; this would help him to refrain from doing what he thinks wrong. Paul says, **Eat not for his sake;** lest he should be tempted to disobey conscience. Vs. 29, 30 claim for the Christian, freedom to eat food, whether offered to idols or not,—his own conscience is to be the judge,—but urge him not to use this liberty, if so doing will in any way injure others.

**III. OUR LORD.—31-33.** All to the glory of God. See Shorter Catechism, Ques. 1. Apply this rule to the use of strong drink. **No occasion of stumbling** (Rev. Ver.). Our example should be a safe one to follow. **Jews**; those of them still unconverted **Gentiles**; heathen. **Church of God**; Christians. **Profit of many.** See Rom. 9: 3 for the sacrifices Paul was ready to make on behalf of others. **Saved.** Any self-denial will seem small, if it results in the salvation of a single soul from loss and ruin.

### THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



**CORINTH**—Was situated on the isthmus of the same name between the Aegean and the Adriatic Seas. It lay on the direct route of commerce from the East to Rome. Many traders preferred transshipping their bales across the isthmus to braving the dangers of sailing round the stormy Cape Malia. Corinth had two seaports, Cenchreae on the east, nine miles away, and Lechaenum on the west, not more than a mile and a half distant. **EPHESUS**—Was in Asia Minor, directly opposite to Corinth, across the Aegean Sea. It was within three miles of the sea on the river Cayster, at the entrance of a long valley running back into the country.

### A LESSON SIDELIGHT

**IDOLS**—Are representations of the deity, which are made objects of worship. They belong to a comparatively advanced stage in the history of religion. In Greece and Rome there were no images or temples in very early days, but in later times these were multiplied. They were introduced at first as domestic idols, and were small, painted wooden figures, or adorned with gold and silver, and descended as heirlooms in a family.—Rev. James Ross, D.D.

### LESSON QUESTIONS

From what city did Paul write First Corinthians? How long was his stay at Ephesus? What question had the Christians at Corinth asked him? In which chapters does he answer this question?

**23, 24** Into what classes may all actions be divided? Which of these are we required to do? From which ought we to refrain? What of the third class? To which class does eating sacrificial meat belong? What limit should we place upon our liberty?

**25-30** How were Christians to treat invitations to heathen homes? What general rule were they to follow as to the food on the table? Under what circumstances were they to abstain? Give the gist of vs. 29, 30.

**31-33** What should we make our chief end? How should we settle the question as to the use of strong drink? What does Jesus say of those who make others stumble? (Matt. 18: 6, Rev. Ver.) How far was Paul willing to serve others? What should we desire most of all for others?

### FOR DISCUSSION

1. Can we use strong drink "to the glory of God"?
2. Which is the strongest reason for total abstinence?

### A LESSON FOR LIFE

Dr. William Osler, the famous Canadian physician, recently addressed a meeting of working men in London, England. He declared that alcohol was quite unnecessary. If all the beer and spirits could be dumped into the Irish Channel, the English Channel and the North Sea, for a year, he said, the people of England would be infinitely better off.

**Prove from Scripture**—That we should not despise the weak.

### FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. When should we be willing to give up our rights? .....

2. Why should we sometimes be guided by the conscience of others? .....

3. Why should we seek to please others? .....