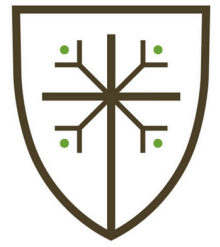


Lacking Nothing

A Sermon Series on 1 Corinthians

SERMON NOTES



July 7, 2025

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Known by God, Living for His Glory"

PREACHER

Rev. Will Stockdale

TEXTS

Psalm 62:5-12

from 1 Corinthians 8, 9, 10 (see p. 2)

Luke 4:5-8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What idols do you most often find yourself moving towards in place of God?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, our 1 Corinthians sermon series turned to chapters 8, 9, and 10 and a topic which the Apostle Paul turns to often in his writings, Christian freedom.

Idolatry

Paul begins speaking about freedom by addressing the opposite – slavery. Specifically, slavery to idols. Idolatry is a product of sinful human hearts. An idol is anything to which we say, "If only I had this one thing, everything else would be ok." It is a part of creation that takes the place of the Creator and is given a place that only God should have in our life. Ultimately, idols end up enslaving us. They are unique from person to person, taking good things from creation and twisting them, based on our own individual weaknesses, to believe that these things are ultimate and God is not. In scripture, we are warned time and time again against idolatry. We are made in God's image to worship him and he doesn't want anything to get in the way of that. God is constantly tearing down idols in order to build up his people.

Reality

The Corinthians felt very secure in their knowledge, as we often do. But Paul warns them that the kind of knowledge they possess is not oriented to its proper end. The proper end of knowledge is greater love for God and for others but they were using it for personal license at the expense of their brothers and sisters in Christ. The ends we seek through knowledge give it its moral weight. Theology and doctrine must be accompanied by love or they are empty, meaningless. All our knowledge is incomplete apart from love. When we learn about God, the very first thing we learn is that we are loved by Him.

Demonstration

After showing the Corinthians the enslavement of idolatry, Paul gives them a demonstration from his own life of the freedom we have in Christ. Paul himself was set free from his enslavement to sin. Freedom is at the heart of the Christian story, from the Exodus of the people of Israel to Christ's atonement on the cross. But the freedom spoken of in scripture, that Paul speaks of, is not just a freedom from something but also a freedom for something. We were set free that we might have the life of Christ and have it to the fullest, able to grow as we were meant to grow. The analogy Paul uses is that of an athlete. A runner trains, disciplining their body in order that they might be free to run a race. But the training and discipline means they don't get to do or eat whatever they want. Running the race as Paul speaks of it is simply to follow Christ, to desire what he desires.

Story

Paul gives a story of warning from Israel's history. They fell into temptation and sin after having seen God's glory. He offers their story that the same things may not befall us. God was merciful and forgiving to his people through Moses. What God did for them through Moses is more fully and completely done for us in Christ. God knows we face temptation and gives us the power to endure it.

Power

By uniting us to Christ and his power, we have the strength to endure temptations just as Christ did. But instead of trusting in this power, trusting that God will enable us to stand we often grumble, exposing in our hearts a denial and rejection of God's love and provision.

Our life as Christians is built upon the everlasting God who never changes and loves us simply because he loves us. In Christ, God fully knows you and fully loves you. That is the foundation of our faith and it is only in that love that we are able to love him and others.