

Idolatry, the Lord's Supper and the Body of Christ (1 Cor 10: 14-22)

- Corinthians over estimating the power of the Lord's Supper in sacramentalism
- They saw the meal as a practical antidote against partaking & practicing idolatry
- Paul speaks to this misconception & how it aids us in our fight against idolatry
- They failed to see fellowship with Christ in eating the bread & partaking the cup
- Both overestimation of the Supper to immunize against sin & underestimation of the Supper in their fight against idolatry actually weakened them in their sin
- To fight sin effectively we need: strengthening fellowship with Christ & growing intimacy with Him which breaks the power of idolatry in our lives.

I. To Overestimate the Power of the Lord's Table

- Key theme holding ch 10 together: **Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry**
- **Vs 19 ...is food offered to idols anything, or is an idol anything?**
- **Vs 28 someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the 1 who informed you, & for the sake of conscience**
- Running through ch.10 is the theme & concern with the matter of idolatry (v.7)
- The conclusion the Corinthians were making was this magically protected them
- They could participate in the activities & foods sacrificed to idols & be safe
- It's presumption: (7) **anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall**
- The Lord's Supper is not a fire proof blanket assuring safety in ongoing sin
- First mistake they substituted personal holiness for sacramentalism

II. They Underestimated Its Purpose

- The Table was not an automatic impartation of divine protection to their souls
- Rather it is a means of personal spiritual fellowship with Christ and His people
- Provision of this Supper is spiritual & real in its preserving of our souls
- Notice Paul's words: vs. 14 "**Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.**"
- Vs 15 & 16 Paul urges them to think about how the Table helps them against sin
- Vs 16 specifies the blood & body of Christ that was given for our redemption
- In it (vs.18) We share in the benefits which were purchased by Christ for us
- Vs 20 "participants" – We submit to & enter into fellowship with Jesus Christ
- Vs 21 either we are in fellowship with Christ or demons behind idols, not both
- The Table when properly understood & entered in prevents us from idolatry