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part of it (hairs about the face, etc.) was burned on their altar. Second, their priests received the ribs, hams and the left side of the face as their portion. It was then used for their daily food, or was sold to the meat markets in the city, the proceeds being used for their financial support. Third, the person offering the sacrifice was then given the remainder, and his options for the use of the animal were similar to those of the priest. It is clear that many of these sacrificed animals came to be purchased by the townspeople in the local markets. The problem for some young, weak Christians was that it was difficult for them to separate the meat that had been offered to the idol from the idol itself. When they discovered that this meat was once sacrificed to a pagan god, they felt they were endorsing idolatry if they purchased or ate that meat. Their conscience was telling them that they should not eat it, while some other Christians were telling them that it was all right to eat it. The fact that some were confused prompted Paul's response.

Evidently, one of the questions asked of Paul in chapter eight was in connection with this practice, and he answered the question in that chapter. His answer drove home the point that, while pagans regarded the idol as their god, since *"there is none other God but one,"* 1 Corinthians 8:4. *Eating the meat did not condemn anyone, and "neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse,"* 8:8. *So the Corinthians were told that they could eat that meat without being guilty of idolatry.*

But there was another problem; some were having a hard time separating the meat

from the idol. They knew Jehovah was the One God, but did not feel right in eating the meat. Others, however, were not sensitive to their weak brother's conscience, and tried to persuade them to go ahead and eat the meat. But for them to do so, thus violating their conscience, would result in sin, Romans 14:23. Note the comment of the Holy Spirit in Paul's inspired statement

"Take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak...And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." 1 Corinthians 8:9-13

Paul was willing to give up his own liberty for the sake of a brother's conscience. Rather than cause a brother to sin, Paul would *"eat no flesh while the earth standeth."* *Would you be willing to forfeit your preferences and desires in order to preserve the spiritual health of a brother or sister in Christ? Or would selfishness cause you to say, "I'll do what I want to do?" What would you be willing to give up in the best interests of your brethren? The answer to this question will reveal whether your love is genuine, or just in "word."*

Are you sensitive to the needs of young or new Christians? Are you willing to put others' needs ahead of your own wants and wishes? *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35*

Liledoun Road ANCHOR

April 4, 2004

Church of Christ

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Taylorsville, NC 28681

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churchofchrist@w4aw.org

<http://w4aw.org/church>

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes – 10:00 am

AM Worship – 11:00 am

PM Worship – 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:30 pm

Elders

Fred Watkins

632-5542

Ralph Lowtharpe

632-6145

Preacher

Jonnie Hutchison

632-7344

The Emotional Effects of Sin

Rod Halliburton

Mental illness is undoubtedly one of the major health problems of our society. It has been estimated that at least half of those persons in hospital beds are there partly because of their emotional problems. Dr. S. I. McMillen, author of "None of These Diseases," has made the statement that "medical science recognizes that emotions such as fear, sorrow, envy, resentment and hatred are responsible for the majority of our sickness. Estimates vary from sixty percent to nearly one hundred percent."

What are some of the emotional effects of sin? First, sin separates a person from a being of absolute purity, God (Isaiah 59:1-2). No one can live a fulfilling life and enjoy true happiness as long as he is separated from his creator.

Second, sin saddens. The prodigal son was in a state of depression until he "came to himself" and was reunited with his father (Luke 15:1ff).

Third, sin scars. Even when a person knows he has

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News and Notes

To Our Visitors

It is always a joy to welcome visitors to our services. We are thankful for each one who has chosen to be present. A number of tracts and other materials are available in the lobby of the building. There is no charge for any of this material. If you would like to enroll in a free Bible Correspondence Course or an in home Bible study please mark that on your visitors card. We hope you will return and be with us at your every opportunity.



Remember In Prayer

 Alvin Bullington, Ethel Watson, Dena Bishop, Kris Koko, Hubert Keys, James Walker, Darcey Finn, Ken Koko, and Eva Parker. Continue to pray for the safety of Josh Philips who is now stationed in Iraq.

Upcoming Events

The **60th Annual Carolina Lectures** are scheduled for April 4-8, 2004 at the Warner's Chapel church of Christ in Clemmons, NC.

Gospel Meeting at the West Jefferson church of Christ, May 16-21, 2004 with Ed Floyd. Monday-Friday services are at 7:00 pm.

Gospel Meeting at the Elkin church

of Christ in Elkin, NC with James Jones, April 23-25, 2004. Friday and Saturday services are at 7:00 pm.

Our Spring Gospel Meeting has been scheduled for June 6-11, 2004 with Nelson Brockenborough preaching. Please mark this date and plan other events around it.

See the bulletin board for details concerning these events.

Lessons Today

Morning 11:00 am

“The Baptism of John”

Evening 6:00 pm

“The Religion of Islam 3”

House/Heart

We will meet this evening following services to prepare the next issue of the *House to House, Heart to Heart* paper for mailing.

If you are here for the right reason on **Sunday morning** shouldn't that same reason bring you back **Sunday night** and **Wednesday night**?

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been forgiven of his sin, he may continue to carry the burden of his sin. Long after his conversion, Paul still referred to himself as the "chief of sinners" (I Timothy 1:15).

Fourth, sin sours. Carrying the burden of sin can often cause a person to become negative and overly critical of others.

Fifth, sin sickens. Sin, along with its consequences and feelings of guilt, can produce heart problems, ulcers, and emotional difficulties.

Sixth, sin sears. When sin is left uncorrected it allows the heart to become hardened. Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus concerning those persons who were "past feeling" (Ephesians 4:19).

—Cullendale Church of Christ

Would You Be Willing to Give Up Your Liberty?

If you could go back and observe your parents as they brought you up, fed and clothed you, educated you, loved and cared for you, it is likely that you would find that they gave up a lot for you. That last piece of chicken; don't you remember Mother saving it for you? That new dress or suit that you needed for some occasion; have you considered that Dad worked overtime in order to buy it for you? Did your parents have to borrow and "do without" in order to afford your education? Mine did, and I doubt I ever really expressed to them sufficient gratitude for the sacrifices they made for me. But they were willing to give up some things for me because they loved me and wanted me to have the things I needed. Upon reflection we may recall similar sacrifices made by our parents, and if we have children we know first-hand what it means to sacrifice for our children.

But what are we willing to give up for the best interests of our brothers and sisters in Christ? Would you be willing to sacrifice your own personal liberties for the welfare of your brethren in Christ? There will be

times and experiences in life in which the best interests of others may clash with your own interests. What if you found a brother in need, and you have the opportunity to meet that need, but find that in doing so you will have to forfeit your own interests. What would your attitude be in such circumstances?

Paul discusses just such a situation in I Corinthians 8, and tells what he would do if the conscience of a "weak" brother was at stake.

In the city of Corinth, various pagan gods were the object of man's worship. Christians in that city were struggling to survive spiritually in a city literally filled with idolatry, including the immorality that accompanied such heathen practices. The animal sacrifices made by those pagan worshippers were at the center of the problem. When such sacrifices were made to Aphrodite, the "god" of Corinth, there was an established way of distributing the flesh of the animal. First, having slaughtered the calf, a token

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