

I Corinthians 10:23-33

Primary Motivation

Introduction:

The word motivation is an interesting word because it entails everything we involve ourselves in this world and the life to come. Motivation gives the reason why we act in a certain way.

If you are a student your chief desire to learn is not that you merely acquire knowledge, but long term to secure a good job to make a living. If you are employed your chief desire is not merely for self-satisfaction but to earn a paycheck to support your family and give some of your resources to those in need.

If you are a Christian your chief motivation is not merely to enjoy the spiritual benefits in this life but the eternal benefits in the Kingdom of God and to honor your Savior and give all the glory to God for the salvation of your soul.

C.S. Lewis in "Mere Christianity" wrote: "I cannot, by direct moral effort, give myself new motives. After the first few steps in the Christian life we realize that everything which really needs to be done in our souls can be done only by God." (Phil. 1:21)

I. Everything Permissible, Not Everything Profitable – v.23-30

A. Christian Liberty – 6:12

1. Avoid selfish living – v.24; Rom. 15:2; Phil.2:4; Matt. 22:39
2. The Good Samaritan – Matt. 22:39

B. The Meat Market – I Cor. 8:1-6

1. Paul's revolutionary thinking v.25
2. Divine Origin –v.26; Psalm 24:1; Turn To: Acts 10:9-22

C. Invitations for dinner by unbelievers

1. Accept the invitation
2. Beware of Gnosticism – Turn To: I Tim. 4:1-5

D. For Conscience sake v.28

1. "Do not eat"
2. Thanksgiving – v.30 (charis – grace)

II. Everything For the Glory of God – v.31

A. The predominate thinking of the Christian should not be our rights

1. The glory of God
2. Our witness of the gospel
3. Our worship of God
4. Our devotion to Christ in our studies and prayer habits

B. Paul's days of trials, persecution and imprisonment – Col. 3:17

1. Unable to glorify God
2. Obstructing the glory of God

C. Rest – Matt. 11:29

1. Remembering the Sabbath Day - Heb. 4:9-10
2. Spiritual Gifts – I Pet. 4:11