

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

Title: The Earth is the Lord's and All its Fullness

1. Introduction

- a. Fullness is to be appreciated
 - i. The fullness of God
 - ii. The fullness of Christ
 - iii. The fullness of the Church
 - iv. The fullness meant for the the Individual believer
- b. Fullness must also be practised
 - i. As a general principle of life
 - ii. In specific scenarios

2. A Principle of Fullness: "The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness."

- a. The LORD created the earth
- b. The LORD sustains the earth
- c. The LORD provides for all on the earth
- d. The earth belongs entirely to the LORD

3. The Practice of the Principle of Fullness

- a. The context of Corinth
 - i. Idolatry and the worship of pagan gods was widespread in Corinth
 - ii. Most of the meat sold at the public meat market had been slaughtered as an offering at the temple of a pagan god
- b. Three specific scenarios
 - i. Whether a Christian can have a meal at the temple of a pagan god
 - ii. Whether a Christian can eat what was sold in the meat market
 - iii. Whether a Christian who has been invited to dinner by a non-believer can eat what was set before him
- c. Paul's responses
 - i. A Christian cannot have a meal at the temple of a pagan god because he is not to have fellowship with pagan gods
 - ii. A Christian can eat what is sold in the meat market because the earth is the LORD's and He has provided the food, while an idol is nothing in the world
 - iii. A Christian can eat what is set before him when he is invited to dinner by a non-believer, however, if he is told that the food has been offered to idols, he should refrain from eating for the sake of the one who told him, and for the sake of conscience
- d. Practising fullness as a general principle of life: "Give no offense"
 - i. To the Jews
 - ii. To the Greeks
 - iii. To the church of God
- e. Doing all to the glory of God
 - i. In eating and drinking
 - ii. In whatever we do

4. The Personal Example of Paul
 - a. Paul seeks to please (accommodate) all men in all things
 - b. He does not seek His own profit, but the profit of many
 - c. That others may be saved
5. The Challenge to Practice the Principle of Fullness in Our Daily Lives
 - a. To practice fullness by considering others and their conscience
 - b. By giving no offense
 - c. By thinking of the profit of others