



## Lesson 47 "Have a nice trip?"

Romans 14:13

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Before you begin looking through these verses today, consider what "stumbling blocks" exist for Christians today. (Example: Christmas.) Make a list of 3-10 things that you can think of.

Read 1 Corinthians 8:4-9. What does Paul say that idols are?

Is this common knowledge? What can happen to their consciences?

What should not become a stumbling block to the weak?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:4-27. What "rights" does Paul state that he does have? (I count 4 things in verses 4-6.)

According to verse 12, what right does Paul have *that he refuses to make use of*?

Why doesn't he use this right, and ease the burden on himself as a missionary?

Is Paul trying to make a defense for *now* receiving these rights?

Look closely at verses 19-23. Paul says that, although he is free from all, what has he made himself?

Why would he do this? Paul *gladly* submits his own interests and freedom...and he does it all for the sake of what?

Paul ends this section by encouraging believers to do what? Is he advocating unbridled freedom?

What fruit of the Spirit does Paul list twice in these final 4 verses? (For a list of fruit of the Spirit, look at Galatians 5:22-24.)

Read Colossians 2:16-23. Paul (again) discusses the issue of food and drink and festivals. He begins here with a warning not to let anyone do what?

Where is the substance of reality?

Let no one disqualify you insisting on what?

What, instead, should we be holding fast to?

Do we need to submit to the regulations given by men?

Paul says they *appear* to have wisdom but are actually promoting what? Are these things valuable?

Look back at the list you made today. As you've read through these verses, are there any more things you could add to the list? As you spend time with God today, ask Him to help you to be aware of any of these areas where you might struggle, either as one who is overly embracing freedom, or one who is holding on too tightly to things that are secondary issues, not salvation issues.

Ask God to help you to let go of anything that you need to let go of, and to act with love and self-control, considering your brothers and sisters to avoid causing them to stumble. Ask Him to help you to understand your responsibility to the body and ask Him to help you to submit yourself graciously, without bitterness or resentment. Ask Him to help you to see, firmly, what truly are salvation issues, and what are "meat sacrificed to idols" issues. Thank Him for the freedom that He has given to you *in* Christ, and ask Him to help you to continue to grow in your knowledge and understanding of Him daily.