

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-19 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(1 Corinthians 8:1) 8 Now concerning food offered to idols: We know we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

*** w17 August p. 29 Love—A Precious Quality

“LOVE BUILDS UP”

Paul wrote: “Love builds up.” (1 Cor. 8:1) How does love do this? In the 13th chapter of Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians—in what has been called the “Psalm of Love”—the apostle explains how love builds up. For one thing, it seeks the other person’s advantage. (1 Cor. 10:24; 13:5) Additionally, because love is thoughtful, considerate, patient, and kind, it builds affectionate families and united congregations.—Col. 3:14.

(1 Corinthians 8:8, 9) 8 But food will not bring us nearer to God; we are no worse off if we do not eat, nor better off if we eat. 9 But keep watching that your right to choose does not somehow become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

*** w89 11/15 p. 14 Do All Things for the Good News ***

An Example for Missionaries

18 Among those doing all things for the sake of the good news are missionaries trained at the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead. They can learn from Paul, who had a fine missionary spirit. For instance, he did not want to be responsible for obstacles that might prevent Jews and Gentiles from accepting the truth. Therefore, the apostle was careful about what he ate and admonished Corinthian Christians to watch that exercising their right to eat certain foods did not stumble others. (1 Corinthians 8:8, 9) In the New Century Bible, Professor F. F. Bruce stated: “In all indifferent things (such as the food which was at issue in [1 Corinthians] chapter 8), [Paul] conforms to the customs of those with whom he is at

the time, so as to put no obstacle in the way of ‘winning’ them for the gospel.”

(1 Corinthians 9:7) 7 What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who shepherds a flock and does not partake of some of the milk of the flock?

*** it-2 p. 986 Soldier ***

Symbolic Use. In defending his apostleship in his letter to the congregation at Corinth, Paul wrote: “Who is it that ever serves as a soldier at his own expense?” (1Co 9:7) Although Paul had not accepted material help from the Corinthians, he here argued that, as a soldier in the service of his Master Christ, he certainly had authority to do so. Paul also considered as soldiers of Christ those who worked in cooperation with him in the preaching of the good news, calling them ‘fellow soldiers.’—Php 2:25; Phm 2.

*** it-2 p. 1170 War ***

God’s material support of the Christian. In the warfare of the Christian, God views the Christian as His soldier and, therefore, provides him with the necessary material things. The apostle argues, with regard to the authority of one serving as a minister to others: “Who is it that ever serves as a soldier at his own expense?”—1Co 9:7.

(1 Corinthians 9:10) 10 Or is it actually for our sakes that he says it? It was really written for our sakes, because the man who plows and the man who threshes ought to do so in the hope of receiving a share.

*** it-1 p. 1138 Hope ***

Hope keeps the Christian minister balanced and in God’s service, knowing that Jehovah will provide his daily needs. The apostle Paul points this out, drawing on the principles set forth in the

Law. Paul quotes the law at Deuteronomy 25:4: “You must not muzzle a bull while it is threshing.” He then adds: “Really for our sakes it was written, because the man who plows ought to plow in hope and the man who threshes ought to do so in hope of being a partaker.”—1Co 9:9, 10.

(1 Corinthians 9:24) 24 Do you not know that the runners in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it.

*** w11 9/15 p. 16 pars. 2-4 Run the Race With Endurance ***

2 In the Bible, the Christian life course has been compared to a race. The apostle Paul called this point to the attention of his fellow Christians in ancient Corinth in his first letter to them. He wrote: “Do you not know that the runners in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may attain it.”—1 Cor. 9:24.

3 Was Paul saying that only one of those Christians would gain the prize of life and all the rest would run in vain? Of course not! Runners in the competitions trained and exerted themselves rigorously with the goal of becoming the winner. Paul wanted his fellow Christians to exert themselves that way in their quest for everlasting life. Doing so, they could hope to gain the prize of life. Yes, in the Christian race, all who finish win that prize.

4 Those words are encouraging, yet sobering, to all who have taken up the race for life today. Why? Because the prize—whether life in heaven or life in Paradise on earth—is beyond compare.

(1 Corinthians 9:26) 26 Therefore, the way I am running is not aimlessly; the way I am aiming my blows is so as not to be striking the air;

*** w16 September p. 9 par. 3 Keep Contending for Jehovah’s Blessing ***

Drawing on the example of a boxer of ancient times, Paul said of himself: “The way I am aiming my blows is so as not to be striking the air.”

(1 Cor. 9:26) Just as a boxer fights off his opponent, we must fend off our enemies. Jehovah trains us and helps us in our fight. He provides lifesaving instructions in his Word. He also helps us through our Bible-based publications, Christian meetings, assemblies, and conventions. Are you putting into practice what you are learning? If you failed to do so, it would be like “striking the air,” not fully opposing your enemy.