DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR READ THROUGH THE BIBLE, 12/21/11

1. Commenting specifically about the harm that might occur from first century Christians eating meat sacrificed to idols, Paul writes, "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak" (I Corinthians 8:9). What contemporary examples might you site in which the exercise of Christian freedom might cause the weak to stumble?

2. What does the comforting promise of God, recorded in I Corinthians 10:13, mean to you?

3. Freedom without self-control soon becomes license as Paul explains in I Corinthians 10 and 11. If you need proof, consider ancient Israel's experience in the wilderness. Freed from slaving for Egypt's taskmasters, God's people soon began to use their freedom as an excuse to commit idolatry, toy with sexual sin, tempt God, and grumble about His "lack" of care. Think about to this reading, let's talk about whether we ever abuse our freedom in the Gospel.

4. Do you suppose your right eye ever envies your left eye? The thought is ridiculous. As a matter of fact, your right eye never thinks about itself. But it leaps into service, helping your right hand find a bandage and apply it to any of your fingers that get cut or smashed by a misguided hammer. Likewise, your ring finger just naturally reaches up to rub your eye when it's tired or to comfort your eyes if they are irritated.

As members of our own congregations are we as self-forgetful and as willing to comfort other members in love? Do we work together to proclaim the cross of our Lord and all it means?

5. I Corinthians 13 describes the kind of love God's Spirit works in the lives of those who belong to Him (Galatians 5:22). In I Corinthians 13, Paul explains that of faith, hope, and love, the greatest is love. Why is love the greatest of these? (See also I John 4:8).

6. Explain the connection of I Corinthians 15:5 with I Corinthians 15:56-57, the verses immediately preceding it.

7. I Corinthians 15 is clear. Jesus has overcome death. How they should we live?