

**DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC**  
**TRINITY OAKEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,**  
**BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA**

24 September 2017  
Bulletin for the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**HYMNS:** 197 209 341 339

**INTROIT:** The LORD is my Light and my Salvation. Whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the Fortress of my life. Of whom should I be afraid?  
When evildoers came against me to devour my flesh, my oppressors  
and my enemies stumbled and fell.

If an army were to pitch camp against me, my heart would not be  
afraid. If a war were to break out against me, in this I would be  
confident.

One thing I have asked of the LORD. That I shall seek, that I may  
dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the  
beauty of the LORD, and to reflect in His temple.

For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble. He will conceal  
me under the cover of His tent. He will set me high on a rock.

Now my head will be high above my enemies all around me. Therefore  
I shall offer sacrifices in His tent with shouts of joy. I shall sing and  
make music to praise the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud! Be gracious to me and answer me!  
When You said, "Seek My face!" my heart said to You, "Your face, O  
LORD, I shall seek."

Do not hide Your face from me! Do not turn Your servant away in  
anger! You have been my Help. Do not cast me off or abandon me, O  
God of my salvation!

Psalm 27:1-9

**COLLECT:** Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before  
You relying on anything that we have done, help us trust in Your  
abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ,  
Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS:** Isaiah 55:6-9 Seek the LORD.

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 To live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Matthew 20:1-16 Parable of the vineyard labourers.

**SERMON:** 1 Corinthians 10:23-33 Glory to God alone

<sup>23</sup>All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. <sup>24</sup>Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's good. <sup>25</sup>Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; <sup>26</sup>for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."<sup>27</sup> If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. <sup>28</sup>But if anyone says to you, "this was offered to idols," do not eat it, for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake. <sup>29</sup>"Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience? <sup>30</sup>But if I partake with thanks, why am I denounced for what I have given thanks for? <sup>31</sup>Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup>Give no offence, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the Church of God, <sup>33</sup>just as I also please all in all, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

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#### How are Christians to regard Halal Certification?

By Vicar Jake Zabel

In modern day Australia, many may be asking the question "how are Christians to regard Halal Certification?"

Halal Certification of foods in Australia is done by some (not all) companies to show their support for the religion of Islam (least they appear to be Islamophobic). In fact, many Australians will go out of their way to buy and eat Halal certified food to show their support, acceptance and "tolerance" for Islam.

So how are Christians to regard this? Well, Scripture provides us with an excellent case study and precedent for this incident. From chapters 8-10 of Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, St. Paul answers the question of food sacrificed to idols (hereafter idol-food).

Paul made a number of comments regarding the case of Christians eating idol-food:

1. Idols are nothing, thus there is nothing intrinsically wrong with the food. (8:4) The Earth is the Lord's and all of its fullness, whatever you eat belongs to God and not to idols. (10:26)
2. Food does not commend us to God and whether we eat or not, we are no better and no worse, thus eating idol-food is an adiaphoron, and Christians are lawful to eat it. (8:8)
3. All things are lawful to me, but not all things are helpful, all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. (10:23) Christians are free to eat the food, however, just because we are free to do something does mean that thing is helpful and edifying.
4. The things that are sacrificed by the Gentiles to idols they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and Paul does not want us to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and the table of demons. (10:20-21) My eating idol-food it gives the appearance that Christians are having fellowship with those idols (and thus demons).
5. Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? (10:22). Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (10:31) We are to give glory to God alone and not to idols or false gods.

6. Let no one seek his own, but the wellbeing being of others. (10:24) Seek not your own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved. (10:33) We are not to be concerned with our own freedom or advantage but about the wellbeing and salvation of others.
7. If food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. (8:13) We should not eat idol-food if it will cause a brother to stumble in the faith.
8. Eat whatever is sold in the meat-market, and ask no questions. (10:25) If your host offers you food eat whatever is set before you without asking any questions. (10:27)
9. If anyone says to you, “this was offered to idols” do not eat it for the sake of conscience. Not your own by the conscience of others. (10:28-29) You should not knowingly eat idol-food, lest you cause your brother to stumble in the faith.
10. Give no offense, either to Jews, or to Greeks or to the Church of God. (10:32) You should not knowingly eat idol-food, lest you give offense to unbelievers and turn them away from God, or give offense to fellow believers and cause them to stumble in their faith.

All foods are clean (Mark 7:19, Acts 10:15) and is not unclean in and of itself (Rom. 14:14). Thus all Christians are free to eat idol-meat. However, not everything we do is helpful and edifying and may cause our brother to stumble in the faith. We should not insist on our own freedom and be should not put our liberty above that of another’s salvation. We should not cause those who seek the Lord to become confounded (Psalm 69:6).

In regards to Halal certified food many companies will seek Halal Certification to show their support of Islam. Therefore, but knowingly eating of Halal certified food Christians may give the appearance of supporting Islam.

Islam is a violent religion that harms not only the body through violent attacks, but also the soul by leading people astray by false doctrines. Therefore, Christians are to oppose Islam, its violent ways and its false teachings.

Christians are free to it Halal certified food, which is in and of itself clean. Therefore, if you buy products from the shops, buy them without asking questions, and if you are offered food from a host, eat whatever is set before you without asking questions.

However, if someone informs you and says, “that is Halal certified,” refrain from eating it.

A Christian can lawfully eat Halal certified food, but just because something is lawful doesn’t mean it is helpful or edifying.

By knowingly eating something that is Halal certified you give the outward appearances of supporting Islam, and you cannot partake of the Lord’s table and the table of Allah.

For the sake of conscience do not eat the food. When I say “conscience”, I do not mean your own but the conscience of others.

If eating Halal certified food will cause others to stumble then refrain, seek not all your own freedom or profit, instead seek the profit or others, that they may be saved.

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

*Welcome to all with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!*

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Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at [www.aelc.org.au](http://www.aelc.org.au).

**Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.**

## COMING SERVICES

<b>1 October 17 Pentecost</b>	<b>8 October 18 Pentecost</b>	<b>15 October 19 Pentecost</b>
8.00am Bible Study & 9.00am TMBA PR JZ 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 10.30am AUB PR JZ	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK PR JZ 10.00am GRN PR JZ 10.30am AUB HC	8.30am OAK HC 8.30am TMBA PR JZ 10.00am GRN HC 10.30am AUB PR JZ
<b>Sunday, 1 October</b>		
READINGS: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32;    Philipians 2:1-18;    Matthew 21:23-32		
HYMNS: 36 357 434 346 TMBA & AUB: 197 209 341 339		
<b>Sunday, 8 October</b>		
READINGS: Isaiah 5:1-7;    Philipians 3:4b-14;    Matthew 21:33-46		
HYMNS: 62 791 75 842 (364) 509 OAK & GRN: 318 312 313 317		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonight, 7.30pm. Choir practice at Oakey.

Friday, 6 October, 7.00am. Family Evening at Aubigny with a Reformation theme. All are welcome to attend. Vicar Zabel will be holding a Reformation themed activity for youth aged children. For more information, please contact Jane Sippel, 0488 722074.

Pastor will be away from 16 Sept – 6 October, attending the ULMA conference in the USA, and visiting pastors of the ACLC. In case of an emergency while pastor is away, please contact Pastor Ohlson on 53596802, or Vicar Zabel on 0458251132.