

Written for our Instruction
I Corinthians 10:1-13

- 1) We have heard from the times we were very young that “the things which were written aforetime were written for our learning.
 - a. This morning we are going to study from I Corinthians 10 an example of this teaching.
 - b. Paul has written to the Corinthians about his compulsion to preach. We studied some about this last week, how Paul was driven to preach, because of his devotion to God.
 - i. He then said that he has become all things to all men that he might by all means save some (9:22).
 - ii. He then talked about the importance of giving only our best when we work for God, because “all run, but only one receives the prize” (24).
 - iii. He compares this to his own training of himself, because he says, “I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway (27).
 - c. This is where our text comes into use in Paul’s letter to the Corinthians. After saying that he is doing his best so that he may not be “a castaway,” He relates it to the children of Israel as they were leaving the land of Egypt.
 - i. They were baptized (I Corinthians 10:2).
 1. They were not literally dipped in a baptistery like the one behind me, but they were under the cloud (which is made of water) and they passed through the sea (with the water on both sides), so in a way they were baptized.
 2. This marked the same thing that baptism marks for us; a new life.
 - a. They were enslaved to Egypt; we were enslaved to sin (Romans 6:1-6).
 - b. After this “baptism” they were not necessarily “free.”
 - i. They were now God’s people, and were now to obey him and submit to his laws.
 - ii. When we were set free from sin, we became slaves of righteousness as well (Romans 6:18).
 3. Their baptism was into Moses (I Corinthians 10:2); ours is into Christ (Galatians 3:27)
 - ii. They partook of spiritual food (I Corinthians 10:3).
 1. The bread from heaven, manna, which fell for them.
 - a. Exodus 16:4-5.
 2. We take of the bread, which is the body of Christ.
 - a. Luke 22:19
 - iii. They partook of spiritual drink (I Corinthians 10:4).
 1. They drank water from the rock while in the wilderness.
 - a. Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:10-13.
 2. We take of the vine, the blood of Christ.
 - a. Matthew 26:28.
 3. Their rock was Christ, as is ours.

- iv. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with the majority of them, and they were overthrown in the wilderness.
- I. “Do not be idolaters as were some of them were.”
 - a. While Moses was still on the mountain receiving the law from God, the people became impatient and built an idol, a golden calf.
 - i. This is where Moses writes the description of them in verse 6: the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.”
 - ii. God was extremely angered by this; he said: “I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff-necked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation” (Exodus 32:9-10).
 - 1. However, Moses pleaded with God to change his mind, so God did not destroy the people.
 - b. The people were not cured of their idolatry, however. As they settled into the promised land, they and their kings became idolaters, and both Judah and Israel were taken captive by their enemies.
 - i. When Judah returned (Israel never did), it never again struggled with idolatry. They were finally cured.
 - c. Idolatry is not a big issue in our society, as far as actual idols go, but some modern ideas are very close to idolatry.
 - i. Materialism – This is the idea that the one with the most toys wins. We get this way when we try to buy our happiness in “stuff.” When we put other things before God, we are breaking the same commandment the Israelites did when they worshipped idols: “You shall put no other gods before me.”
 - ii. Hedonism – This is the idea that I am the only one that matters in the end. I can not please everyone, but I know what pleases me. As long as I do what makes me happy, I will be happy. This is living without a view of the afterlife. If we only look at what this life has to offer us, we will miss out in the end. This is the same as idolatry because we are making ourselves God.
 - iii. Humanism – this idea basically is that human beings are the most intelligent beings that exist. Humans are God. This was once thought only by scientists, but many Christians do not pray or study scripture because they can handle it all on their own. That is dangerous thinking, and if I were God (and I am not), I would consider that idolatry.
- II. “Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed.”
 - a. The command appears several times throughout both the Old and New Testaments that we should abstain from fornication. God obviously thinks that it is a serious matter, for it is the sole reason acceptable as reason for divorce. This is closely related to the idea of idolatry, because most pagan religions incorporated cultic prostitution into their worship. Thus by committing fornication, you were worshiping their god!
 - i. When Moses wrote that the people “rose up to play,” this is most likely what he meant.

- b. There is something interesting to the word Paul used here. It is not the same word used to refer to committing adultery, but it specifically means: “to engage in any kind of sexual activity that is not allowed.” Adultery is breaking the marriage vow to your spouse to keep yourself pure from all others. The word used in I Corinthians 10 is one that applies to everyone, married or not. This goes against the thoughts of many people who think it is okay to sleep around until marriage, when you finally stop. NO! This is not allowed by God.
- III. “Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted.”
- a. When Moses had struck the rock to give the people water to drink, he named the place “Massah,” which means “testing,” because “they tested the LORD by saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’”
 - b. Sometimes, when we are struggling, we look at our situation selfishly and wonder why God is doing nothing to help us. It is not God’s job to make sure we make it through life all rosy and easy. We should not look at what we are going through and ask God, “Are you going to help me or not?” We need to look at our situations and see how we can use it to get closer to God and to help as many others as we can. We know this:
 - i. God works everything together for good for those who love him (Romans 8:31).
 - ii. We should rejoice when we are struggling because it produces patience (James 1:2-4).
- IV. “Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured.”
- a. If you read the book of Exodus from the time they left Egypt until they got to the promised land, there are seven times where it mentions that they complained about what was going on.
 - i. Exodus 15:24 – Nothing to drink
 - ii. Exodus 16:2 – Nothing to eat
 - iii. Exodus 17:3 – Nothing to drink
 - iv. Numbers 14:2 – They were afraid to go into the land of Canaan.
 - v. Numbers 16:11 – Korah and others were complaining about the power of Moses and Aaron over the people.
 - vi. Numbers 16:41 – They complained because God destroyed Korah and his household.
 - vii. Deuteronomy 1:27 – They complained because of the Amorites.
 - b. As a result of their continued unbelief in God, he did not allow them to enter the land
 - i. Numbers 14:22 – Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened unto my voice; Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it.
 - 1. This tells us that there were other times where the people showed their distrust in God, and as a result he just gave up on them and went to the next generation. They fell lost in the wilderness.
 - c. As a result, we need to watch our complaints to God. If we go about acting like we have nothing and that we are poor and miserable, He will see to it that we

know what it is like to truly be poor and miserable, having nothing. We see repeated examples of this.

- i. The Unbelieving Israelites (Numbers 14).
- ii. The One-Talent Man (Matthew 25).
- iii. The Gentiles (Romans 1).

V. These are written for our admonition

- a. Admonition is warning. Paul is saying that this happened to the children of Israel AFTER they had been baptized into Moses and AFTER they took of the spiritual food and drink. In other words, it is never too late to fall away from God's grace.
 - i. Romans 9:18 – Therefore he hath mercy on whom he will have mercy.
 1. He has said that he will have mercy on those that obey him and remain faithful to the end.
 - ii. We know this from verse 12 – Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.
 1. In Romans 11 he gives an image of being grafted into a plant which normally would not grow a branch like us (the Gentiles). He says:
 - a. Do not boast against the branches, because we are not supporting anything, but the root supports us (v. 18).
 - b. The other branches were broken off for unfaithfulness or unbelief and we stand by faith, so do not be proud; be afraid, for God did not spare the natural branches.
 2. The goodness and severity of God.
 - a. If we never believe, we are cut off (Severity).
 - b. When we obey we are grafted in (Goodness).
 - i. But if we do not continue in faith, we will be cut off.
- b. Let's keep our head up.
 - i. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
- c. Isaiah 55:6-7 says: "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return to the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."
 - i. All it takes if you have turned away from God after becoming a Christian is turning away from wickedness and returning to God and praying for forgiveness.
 - ii. If you have been tempted, there is nothing to be ashamed of. If you have fallen to that temptation, you need to fix it as soon as possible. Turn to God and he will forgive you. Do not refuse to repent. Remember what happened to Israel and Judah. If you need to respond to God's invitation today, please do so now, as we stand and sing.