

BECOMING THE CHURCH

“Do You REMEMBER?”

(1 Corinthians 10:1-13)

Remember the Alamo. Remember the Maine. Remember 9/11. Remember the diapers.

Why? We tend to forget. And as we remember, we are to be motivated for change – to DO something about it.

In a critical moment where the Church of Corinth was surrounded by pagans and a culture of sinful and rebellious people who don't care about God – and the temptation is SO strong to be influenced by the world... Paul encourages the Church to be sober and aware, and remember what happened to the Israelites when they fell into the trap of temptation and sin from their own flesh and from the world around them.

Main POINT: The Word of God encourages & teaches us to cling to Jesus when tested and tempted. History is littered with those who haven't. We must REMEMBER and learn!

READ 1 Cor. 10:1-13 – Ch. 8-9 Paul focuses on not abusing our freedom (serve others, self-denial/control)

“For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers *and sisters*, that our fathers were all under the cloud and they all passed through the sea; ² and they all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;³ and they all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was ⁵ Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased; for *their dead bodies* were spread out in the wilderness.⁶ Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they indeed craved *them*. ⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.” ⁸ Nor are we to commit sexual immorality, as some of them ⁹ did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. ⁹ Nor are we to put the Lord to the test, as some of them ¹⁰ did, and were killed by the snakes. ¹⁰ Nor grumble, as some of them ¹¹ did, and were killed by the destroyer.¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, **and they were written for our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.¹² Therefore let the one who thinks he stands watch out that he does not fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except *something* common to mankind; and God is faithful, ¹³ so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

This passage in Chapter 10 reminds the Church that God is both a God of Rescue and Redemption as well as a God of Holy righteousness – who at times will test and punish His children. **We live in an age where most people have forgotten that there are real consequences for our actions and choices.** God has not forgotten, nor has He changed His mind on the obedience He requires of His children who live to reflect/spread His glory

The devastating consequences of the sinful actions of God's own covenant people in the wilderness reminds the Church today **ALL that Christ has taken on because of our sin. B/C sin is real, judgment is real.** Jesus paid an immense cost for our sinful choices and actions. **This passage helps the Church REMEMBER what God has done in the past, who He is today, and what He has planned for those who love and follow Him:**

Paul is going to use several elements of Christian symbolism to make his point to the Church:

Vs. 1: “For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers *and sisters*, that our fathers [Old Testament Saints – the generation who were miraculously rescued from Egypt] **were all under the cloud and they all passed through the sea;** ² and they all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

- **God's presence was in the Cloud leading Moses and the Israelites out of Egypt.** God's gift was not just His rescue, but His presence.
- **God demonstrated His sovereign power by parting the Red sea, allowing the Israelites to walk on dry sea floor, and drowned the entire Egyptian army behind them with an 80' wall of water.** = Miracle. Powerful. Supernatural = WHO is this God of Signs and Wonders....
- **These who experienced these powers and were the beneficiaries of God's miraculous rescue were “spiritually” baptized/initiated into God's plan and purpose for their life.**

Vs. 3: and they all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was ⁵ Christ. Paul equates the Israelites experience of God's personal provision of them in the desert (with the Manna from heaven and the water from the rock) with Jesus Christ as being both the bread of life (provided from God to mankind) and that Jesus is the living

water – that all need to drink from in order to have eternal life (John 4). Since Jesus IS God, His presence was also in the desert through God's Spirit. = The Trinity at work in rescuing & providing for Israel.

Vs. 5: Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased; for *their dead bodies were spread out in the wilderness*. – 2 million exit Egypt. Only two of those original (Joshua & Caleb) made it into the prom/land
A. Believers in God & non-believers alike were rescued from Egypt. =all Israelites, not all Believers (faith)^{Heb 11:2}
B. B/C of unbelief, God allowed an entire generation of Israelites to die off in the wilderness in order to accomplish His purpose with those who would believe, trust, love. = 40 yrs of waiting, testing, trials, **-failure**
C. God raised up another generation of those watching their parents/gparents rebel against God/consequen

Vs. 6: Now these things happened as examples for **us**, [YOU] so that we would not crave evil things as they indeed craved *them*. In spite of ALL that God did: He rescued them out of slavery; He lavished them with Egypt's wealth (a nest egg for the promised land); He fought for them against the Egyptian army; He provided for them in the desert (food and water); He led them in the desert through a cloud by day and a fire by night; He provided the Law to help them know how to live and please God; and most importantly, He gave them His very own presence – God sought THEM out, rescued them, loved them, gave a relationship to them! =**God was wooing them to Himself**, demonstrating His worth & majesty & love. =**Inviting into REL.** and in spite of ALL that....**They still rebelled against God**. They rejected His presence, they chose idols, and sinned against His moral law; they wanted to indulge their flesh, their immediate wants vs. enjoy Him

1. As Believers, we cannot take our relationship with Jesus for **granted**. God still wants us to pursue Him daily!
2. As Believers, God's children, we are never **exempt** from testing, hardship, trials, punishment, or judgment
Rom. 8:1 "There is not therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ." 1 Cor. 3:10-16 saved/judged
3. As Believers, we are also never exempt from the consequences of our **actions**, our choices, & rebellion
=Though we are saved and eternally secure (John 10:28-30), **we still face the earthly ramifications of our sin.**

***Relevant Warning for the Church today:**

Vs. 7: Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play/Lewd behavior [sexual carousing.] Paul refers to Exodus 32 (Golden calf, feast, orgy) = 3000
-Ezekiel 14:3 "These men have set up idols in their own heart and put before their own faces stumbling blocks of their own sin."

*The point here is that the Israelites became **Impatient & INDULGENT** and satisfied their flesh in unhealthy ways; In idolatry we first forget about God and focus on other things in our life that become our priorities.
=God wants to be our **FIRST** priority. He wants us to wait upon His provision, His blessings & promises.

Vs. 8: Nor are we to commit sexual immorality, as some of them ^{did}, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. Paul refers to Num. 25 – the Israelite men took the daughters of Moab, feasted, embraced idols/orgy
*Sexual sin can be committed before marriage, during marriage, after marriage – it is a temptation for most of us. We live in a sex-charged world. Perhaps, it is more difficult today than any time before

-Jeremiah 6:15 "Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct. Disgusting actions, their abominations? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush."

Vs. 9: Nor are we to put the Lord to the test, as some of them ^{did}, and were killed by the snakes. Paul refers to Num. 21 "The people spoke against God and Moses." Rejected the Manna. Rejected His provision. Wanted to go back to slavery of Egypt rather than continue in wilderness. =**Rejected God's presence, plan, promise.**

Vs. 10: Nor grumble, [complain] as some of them ^{did}, and were killed by the destroyer. Num. 16. After the rebellion of Korah, "the people grumbled against Moses and Aaron" = Angel "Destroyer" =plague killed 15K
Perhaps the greatest sign of rebellion in our hearts against God is **INGRATITUDE**. = **Check your heart.**

Vs. 11: Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Bc God loves us, He has reminded us sin is serious. Consequences. We need grace upon grace that is only found in Jesus Christ. And as recipients of grace/Believers=life of worship

Vs. 12: Therefore let the one who thinks he stands watch out that he does not fall. (Pride) ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except *something* common to mankind; and God is faithful, ^{so} He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation **will provide the way of escape also**, so that you will be able to endure it." As God rescued the Israelites from Egypt, and as Jesus rescued us on the Cross,

so even today – **Jesus stands ready to rescue YOU** and me from ourselves, from our own flesh and from the temptations of this world. The lure of sin is not better than Jesus. The thrill of sin never lasts and only brings shame and guilt. Jesus alone is better than anything this world has to offer.

The testing/temptation

Main POINT: The Word of God encourages & teaches us to cling to Jesus when tested and tempted. History is littered with those who haven't. We must REMEMBER and learn!

APPLICATION

Testing, Trial, and Temptation are all the **SAME** word here (*perasmos*): The nuance difference is How you respond.

Gen 22:1 “**God tested Abraham**” – sacrifice his only son.

Mt. 4:1 “**The spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted/tested**”

The testing becomes temptation when we allow satan to use it to hurt us, succumb to sin, defeat, & shame.

- If we allow the test to prove God's faithfulness in us, to demonstrate our faith in Christ = testing (assessment)
- If we allow the test to crush us, satan uses it as temptation, an inducement to fail (to rebel, lean on our flesh)

1. God does test His children's Faith and Trust in the Lord. **i.e. Job**. He does not tempt us to evil/sin (Jas 1:13)
-How are you passing the Lord's test? **Military: Proving ground for tanks ships = sea trials**
2. No one is exempt from Temptation. Even Jesus was severely tempted as a human (Heb. 4:15) “**yet w/o sin**”
3. No temptation in your life is greater than your spiritual resources “**greater is He in you, than he in world**” 1 Jn 4:4
4. We escape temptation as we go **through** it in His presence – rarely does God remove it from us. =**Carries us**
- poem “**footprints in the sand**”
5. Jesus IS the way of escape when you are tempted. When tempted we are to:
 - A. **Pray** and ask God for His presence and His help Mk 14:38 Jesus:“**Keep watching & pray not to fall into temp**”
 - B. Know and lean on **Scripture**. God's Word speaks to your situation. Ps. 119:9 “**how can a young man keep...**”
 - C. Remember the **Promises** of God – His plan is to push you back into His arms often (using circumstances)
 - Dt. 31:6 “**I will never leave you nor forsake you**”
 - Heb. 11:6 “**God is a rewarder of those who seek Him**”
 - Gal. 5:16 “**Walk in the Spirit and you won't gratify the lusts of the flesh.**”
 - Eph. 6:12 “**Our fight/struggle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces**”
 - Eph. 6:10 “**Put on the whole armor of God so that you will be able to stand the schemes of the devil**”
 - Jas. 4:7 “**Submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**”
 - Phil. 4:13 “**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**”
 - Heb. 4:16 “**Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**”
 - D. **Invite** other trusted people into your weakness = accountability and encouragement
 - Jas 5:16 “**Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**”
 - Gal. 6:2 “**bear one another's burdens**”
 - E. Learn to be **Thankful** for your circumstances and trials (=shows spiritual maturity). =You understand God's plan is to help you mature into His Son's likeness. Not to harm you. =**Don't waste any pain**. Use it!
 - Jas 1:2-4 “**Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**”
 - 1 Thess. 5:18 “**Be thankful in ALL circumstances for this is the will of the Lord.**”