

STUDY ON THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS

First Corinthians – Chapter 10

Chapter 10

Warning to Believers in Christ.

“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” (v11-12)

In this chapter of the bible, Paul as an apostle of Christ decided to warn the believers in Corinth about their lifestyle. He went into history to reveal God’s pattern through the deeds of the children of Israel i.e. how God handled their sins... and this has been written as example to us.

We will take our time with this chapter and learn from the mistakes of others so that we don’t find ourselves repeating their mistakes.

Paul started in the first two verses with two key encounters that the children of Israel had... that should have defined their reverence and commitment to God.

“Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea” (vv1-2)

What Cloud & Which Sea?

- **Cloud: Exodus 40:34-38**
- **Sea: All passed through the sea Exodus 14:21-31**

These are definite encounters that should have defined God before the children of Israel without a doubt.

Baptism:

The bible states that they were baptised into Moses (ministry which Moses led) which was the baptism in the cloud and in the sea. While we are on the topic of baptism, it is important to note that there are at least seven distinct baptisms mentioned in the New Testament which are:

- The baptism of John (John 1:31-33),
- Christ’s baptism (John 3:22),
- Baptism of suffering (Luke 12:50),
- Baptism into the cloud of glory (1 Cor. 10:2),
- Believer’s baptism in water (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38-41),
- Baptism into Christ and into his body (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27),
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11-14; Acts 1:5; 11:16; 19:2-3).

Each one of us can take time to do personal studies on these various baptisms.

Supernatural Food & Drink

“They all ate the same heavenly manna” (v3 TPT)

Reference: Exodus 16:11-15,31

Thought: Why did God give the children of Israel manna everyday rather than other food or even, quail?

“and drank water from the same spiritual rock that travelled with them—and that Rock was Christ himself.”
(v4 TPT)

Reference: Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:7-21; Psalms 78:15

Christ is the anointed Rock of truth and the Rock of shelter. The people drank of his living water. The miracle of the Rock of Christ provided them with water wherever they journeyed. He is a fountain that never runs dry, for he will never leave us alone in a wilderness. This gives context to what Jesus told the woman at the well:

“Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”” (John 4:10)

He is indeed the fountain that never runs dry and He can satisfy every thirst – natural, emotional, financial etc.

The Main Point:

“But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.” (v5)

God was not pleased with these people. They experienced the miracle of the sea parting, they experienced the glory of God, they ate manna and drank from the spiritual Rock yet, God was not pleased with them.

- YOUR EXPOSURE TO THE SUPERNATURAL IS NOT AN EVIDENCE OF GOD BEING PLEASED –

They witnessed, experienced, tasted of God’s glory and yet, the result is that God was not well pleased with them.

“Now, all these things serve as types and pictures for us—lessons that teach us not to fail in the same way by callously craving worthless things and practicing idolatry, as some of them did. For it is written: The people settled into their unrestrained revelry, with feasting and drinking, then they rose up and became wildly out of control!” (vv6-7 TPT)

This is recorded for us. This is recorded that we can learn from the mistakes of these people. Which of their wrong acts were listed?

1. Lusting (chasing after worthless things),
2. Practicing idolatry

The translation of “wildly out of control” comes from the root word “paizo”. To translate the Greek word *paizō* in this context is extremely difficult. However, because of the next verse, it appears Paul is saying that they rose up after feasting and drinking to fall into immorality.

Reference: Numbers 25:1-3

“Neither should we commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, which caused the death of twenty-three thousand on a single day. Nor should we ever provoke the Lord, as some of them did by putting him to outrageous tests that resulted in their death from snakebites day after day. And we must not embrace their ways by complaining—grumbling with discontent, as many of them did, and were killed by the destroyer!”
(vv8-10 TPT)

3. Sexual Immorality **Numbers 25:5-9**
4. Provoking the Lord **Numbers 21:1-9**
5. Complaining – grumbling with discontent e.g. **Numbers 14**

In the Pentateuch there are at least sixteen occasions of the people of Israel murmuring. Believers today have even more spiritual blessings than Israel experienced in the wilderness, which would make our complaining even more odious.

God's Way of Escape

"We all experience times of testing, which is normal for every human being. But God will be faithful to you. He will screen and filter the severity, nature, and timing of every test or trial you face so that you can bear it. And each test is an opportunity to trust him more, for along with every trial God has provided for you a way of escape that will bring you out of it victoriously." (v13 TPT)

- Every human being will experience a time or times of testing just because the devil is still out there
- God is faithful that He will assess if it is beyond what you can handle and then step in. If God believe you can deal with it then He will leave it to you but if it is too much for you then, He will sort it out.
- Each testing is an opportunity to trust Him more,
- God always makes a way of escape from every testing, so you come out victorious.

Another Warning About Implication of Idolatry

"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?" (vv21-22)

Paul was making a point here about the implication of the Holy Communion and then partaking of food offered to idols. We cannot eat of the Lord's body and then, eat of the food offered to idols. I highlight Paul's points below:

- *The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? The answer is: "It is!"*
- *Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. As we dedicate what we eat (especially at the Holy Communion) to God, the gentiles or idol worshippers sacrifice to demons and by partaking of the food they offer, you are partaking of 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 of the table of demons. THIS SUMMERISES THE POINT!*
- *Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."* If you are buying from the market, then do not bother yourself about the source of the meat or food and do not ask questions either.
- *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. 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; for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."* Again here, the point is clear. If you know or you have been told that it is a food offered to idols, then do not eat it for conscience sake.

Conclusion:

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.” (vv31-33)

Whatever we do, let us do this to the glory of God offending no one deliberately in the process.