

A Warning From History

1 Corinthians 10:1-22

June 25, 2017

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10 I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

6 Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11 **Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction,** on whom the end of the ages has come.

12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

- 18 Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? 19 What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. 22 Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?
- **Strong believer – Don't grow overconfident in your ability to overcome temptation**

1. Privileges are no Guarantee of Success (1-4)

- 10 I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.
- **Israel had been delivered from Egypt by the power of God**
- The Passover pointed to something else!
- 1 Corinthians 5:7-8
- 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- John 6:63,68 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life... Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,
- John 7:37-39 - On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
- **There are dangers to maturity as well as to immaturity, and one of them is overconfidence**

2. Good beginnings does not guarantee good endings (vv. 5-12)

- Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. **Now these things took place as examples for us**, that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." 8 **We must not indulge in sexual immorality** as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 **We must not put Christ to the test**, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11 **Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction**, on whom the end of the ages has come. 12 **Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.**

Experience must be balanced with caution.

Lusting

- Numbers 11:4-6 - Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" NKJV

Idolatry

- Exodus 32:1-4 - When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves, make us gods who shall go before us...So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold... 3 So all the people took off the rings of gold...4 And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf.

Fornication

- Numbers 25:1-2 - Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. NKJV

Complaining

- Numbers 21:4-6 - From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." 6 Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

3. Temptation can be Overcome (vv.13-22)

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

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- Why does God permit us to be tempted?
 - So we will depend on Him
 - So that He will provide a way of escape

The believer who thinks he can stand, may fall; but the believer who flees will be able to stand.

Flee fornication (1 Cor. 6:18)

Flee from idolatry (1 Cor. 10:14)

Why? The idol itself is nothing, but the idol can be used by Satan to lead you into sin.

Idolatry is demonic

Deuteronomy 32:17 - They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known,

Psalms 106:37 - They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons;

- **The important doctrine of separation from sin.**
- 2 Corinthians 6:14-16
- Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial [the godless or Satan]? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God;

- An illustration from the Lord's Supper (16-17)
- 16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.
- **Strong believers don't grow overconfident in their ability to overcome temptation.**

