

Letters to the church in...



Corinth

Focus: 1 Corinthians 10:1-33

Lesson 10-Spiritual Privileges and Perils of Faith

- **The Exodus journey out of Egypt holds very important lessons for us (v.1-5)**
 - **(v.1,2)** All the congregation **was baptized** “in the cloud and in the sea.” (by Fire and by Water) **The Bible speaks of two baptisms (Matthew 3:11)**. We must be “born of the water and the Spirit” (**John 3:5**). Spiritual conversion of heart (by the Holy Spirit), and physical water baptism. “...They that believe **and** are baptized shall be saved” (**Mark 16:16**). Exodus 13:21 mentions the pillar of cloudy fire. Exodus 14:22 mentions their crossing through the midst of the sea (thus escaping the Egyptians).
 - **Which side of the sea do you want to be on?** On the side closest to Egypt they were still in Egyptian territory (and the armies of Egypt were not far behind them). Egypt represents the center of all worldliness and sin. **On the other side of the sea was the pathway to the Promised Land** (and the Promised Land itself). Once they had passed over the sea, they could look back and see that the Lord had taken them out of Egypt—Canaan was all the closer to them now!
 - **(v.3,4)** Their spiritual food and drink were given to them on their desert journey after they had crossed over the Red Sea. The **bread (Exodus 16:13-21)**. The **rock with water (Exodus 17:6)**. Christ is the “bread of life,” “the bread which came down from heaven” (**John 6:35, 41**). He gives us the water of life too—the Holy Spirit.
 - **(v.5)** —we must be careful not to lose our way in the desert though. We must keep faithful to the Lord, and continue to grow in His grace. **Jude 1:5,6** reminds us of another example (it is not “once saved, always saved” as some have said it—We must be faithful to continue in the way of Jesus Christ. Jesus will not just abandon us or let us go...that is so very true. **He will try everything to stop us from heading to destruction** (like with King Saul and with Balaam), but ultimately the choice is ours. (Paul mentions this idea in 1 Cor. 9:27—“lest I should be disqualified” or “a castaway”)
- **Watch out for the many perils of faith that we all may be tempted by (v.6-13)**
 - (v.6,7) many complained and then worshiped the works of men’s hands. They **had a carnival religion** (in their idolatry)...they “ate, drank, and rose up to play.”
 - (v.8) Their act of fornication was a seduction by the enemy, and it brought great destruction to Israel and the disfavor of God (**Numbers 25:1-9**). “**The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord**” (**Romans 6:23**). Even when Adam and Eve had eaten the forbidden fruit in the beginning, death was promised them (yet Christ stepped in for them). In this situation, these men had deeply offended the Holy God whose presence was dwelling among them, and they all died. **Sin**

is a very serious matter and it should not be made light of!!! (God takes it very seriously).

- *(v.10) The people had murmured against God many times (ex. **Numbers 11:4-6, 10**).*
- *(v.11-13) These are common temptations to man. BUT, God will provide **a way of escape for us**. We do not have to fall into the traps and perils of sin!*
- **Flee from idolatry; we cannot be partakers of Christ's Holy things and also continue to be partakers of what is evil (v.14-20)** *Christ calls us to separate from the sinful things of this world.*
 - *(v.16) We bless the food and it becomes as the body of Christ, symbolically.*
 - *(v.18) Those who worship in God's Temple partook of the food (Lambs, etc.) which were offered. (this represented **how we must partake of Jesus Christ, day by day for our spiritual strength!**)*
 - *(v.20) The Gentiles are sacrificing to devils.*
- **We should be faithful in all things and be true to conscience** (not offending the consciences of others inasmuch as is possible for us) **(v.21-33)**
 - *(v.21) we should not be partakers of what was offered to devils.*
 - *(v.24-29) conscience matters—let everyone keep a clear conscience before God. **Do all to the glory of God (v.31).***
 - *(v.33) seeking to save others and to not fuss over some matters which are inconsequential.*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your desire and choice to walk in Christ's pathway, receiving spiritual strength from Him daily, and being faithful? _____ Will you pray for God's blessings, mercy, and grace to be in your life?_____