

## **THE KEY TO AVOIDING SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

### **DOING GODLY THINGS IS NOT A LICENSE TO ENGAGE IN SINFUL BEHAVIOR**

- “Now I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 3 They 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 that rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless God was not pleased with most of them, since they were struck down in the wilderness.” (1 Corinthians 10:1-5)
- **God is patient and full of grace, but His holiness demands accountability for sinful behavior.**
- “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)
- **Too many people do religious things and claim to be Christian while still living in sinful behavior.**

### **GOD HAS GIVEN US NUMEROUS EXAMPLES IN SCRIPTURE SO THAT WE WILL AVOID LIVING IN SIN**

- **A wise man will learn from the mistakes of others, but a fool must learn from their own mistakes despite having examples of the consequences.**
- “Now these things took place as examples for us, so that we will not desire evil things as they did. 7 Don’t become idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, *The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to party.* 8 Let us not commit sexual immorality as some of them did, and in a single day twenty-three thousand people died. 9 Let us not test Christ as some of them did and were destroyed by snakes. 10 And don’t grumble as some of them did, and were killed by the destroyer. 11 These things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our instruction, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 So, whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall.” (1 Corinthians 10:6-12)
- **We need to remember our propensity, our inclination to sin, and not become arrogant or lazy in our walk with Jesus, lest we fall back into sin.**

### **GOD ALWAYS PROVIDES A WAY FOR US TO ESCAPE THE TEMPTATION TO SIN**

- “No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted

*beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to bear it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

- **When we sin we have no one else to blame but ourselves.**
- *“But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. 15 Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.” (James 1:14-15)*
- **God’s love for us is displayed in the gift of His Son Jesus, the gift of His Holy Spirit who live in us, and His constant presence guiding us away from temptation and into His presence.**
- *“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.” (John 14:26)*
- *“Don’t you yourselves know that you are God’s temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)*

### **CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

#### **Observation:**

- In verses 1–5, what spiritual privileges did the Israelites experience, and what surprising outcome followed?
- In verses 6–11, why does Paul say these Old Testament stories were recorded?
- What warning does Paul give in verse 12 to those who feel too confident in their faith?
- What promises does God make in verse 13 regarding temptation and His faithfulness?

#### **Understanding:**

- Why do you think people sometimes assume that religious activity or spiritual experiences protect them from falling into sin?
- How does this passage challenge the idea that “good intentions” or “past faithfulness” are enough?
- Paul lists idolatry, sexual immorality, testing God, and grumbling. Which of these feels most relevant or subtle in our culture today?
- Why is it often easier to repeat mistakes than to learn from the examples God gives us?
- Verse 13 says temptation is “common to humanity.” How does that truth help reduce shame or isolation when we struggle?
- What do you think “the way out” of temptation can look like in real life (relationships, habits, prayer, boundaries, community)?
- Where might overconfidence or spiritual complacency be a danger in your life right now? What can you do this week to overcome that?