

From Sinners to Saints

1 Corinthians 10:12-33

- Paul has been using the children of Israel and their wilderness experience to highlight the importance humbling ourselves and remember its not our will that we should be striving for but doing God's will, that's what leads us to peace and joy, that other thing frustration and disappointment. So after **V11** says "all these things happened to Israel as examples for us and written to us for our warning", that's what admonition means, warnings that leads to instruction to promote spiritual growth.

V12-33

- **V12-13** since Israel's disobedience are warnings to us not to follow their rebellious heart, but to resist temptation, and trusting in God that He will make a way for us to avoid the sinful pitfalls that is so easily accessible to us. Notice to practice this we must first understand how vulnerable we are to temptation, hence the phrase "**him who thinks he stands**" it's a false sense of security that wrongly thinks I can't fall.
- But the truth is we can easily fall, therefore we must stay on guard against temptation in order to protect ourselves. Something Israel didn't do, and it cost them greatly didn't it? Temptation works like rocks in a harbor, when the tide is low everybody sees the danger and avoid it, but when the tide is high the rocks are hidden. Satan's strategy in temptation is to raise the tide, and to cover over the dangers, hoping people won't see it and it causes them to crash and get hurt.
- Which is why our reliance is on God, He is faithful, He is Who we are putting our trust in to protect us, guide us, and keep us from that which wants to harm us. But we do have a part, and that is to be intentional by "**taking heed**", meaning to watch carefully, be vigilant, and pay close attention to ones surroundings and spiritual state. This will protect me and you from overconfidence, pride, and complacency.
- **V14** now I'm able to flee idolatry, and not give in to it, for I now recognize the dangers and destruction it causes. **V15-22** while idolatry causes separation the communion table represents fellowship and unity, so Paul uses this to show what the Corinthian Church should be running to (communion) and what they should be running away from (idolatry), now they should be at the point where they can tell the difference.

- **V23-24** is so important because often times we as believers wrongly think when it comes to what is wrong just flee, run, avoid, but that is just one part of it, we also need to be pursuing “**what is good**”. When I do this then the decisions I make will not only be for the benefit of me, but also be a blessing to others.
- **V25-30** here are some practical solutions in dealing with a world that’s full of unbelievers, if I’m at the butchers shop and some of the meat had come from animals sacrificed to idols in a pagan temple. Does that make the meat inedible, did where it come from make it not fit to eat? Paul says no, but for conscience sake just don’t ask, when I go to the safeway I’m not asking what farm those eggs came from, was the farmer a believer or unbeliever, what about those grapes, or fruit > **Ps 24:1**.
- **V31-33** this should be our goal, as we see three principles to live by > **1**. Is what I’m doing or thinking of doing going to glorify The Lord, **2**. Is what I think or do beneficial for those around me, **3**. Is what I’m thinking or doing going to lead people into a right relationship with The Lord? If the answer to any of these three questions is (**no**) then you need to stop in your tracks and reexamine your thought process again.