

Sermon 47: Staying Grounded by Learning from the Past: 1 Corinthians 10:1-14

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-14 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry..."

Truth 1: We need the Old Testament:

- **The difference between two covenants:**
 - **Focus on a nation and God's work through that nation:**
 - **Exodus 19:4-8** "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do..."
 - **Romans 9:2-4** "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom

pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises..."

- **Focused on the people of God united in the church:**
Ephesians 2:11-17 "Remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh..."
- **Key takeaways:**
 - We see the unfolding story of redemption.
 - We learn about God's character.
 - We learn about man's nature.
 - We see vivid examples of consequences and God's grace.
 - We gain perspective.
- **The focus of this passage:**
 - **1 Corinthians 10:6** "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted..."
 - **1 Corinthians 10:11** "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come..."
 - **1 Corinthians 10:12** "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall..."

Truth 2: We need to consider the big picture: 10:1-8

- **There is great value in examining individual texts and the little details in those texts:**
 - **God creates: Genesis 1:1** "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth..."
 - **God fulfills his promises: Genesis 21:1-2** "And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him..."

- **God provides: Genesis 22:8** "And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together..."
- **God rules: Genesis 50:20** "As for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive..."
- **Sometimes we need to step back and see the big picture:**
 - **God worked with a generation in the wilderness:**
 - They were blessed people.
 - They failed to obey God.
 - They suffered irreversible temporal loss.
 - **Blessings:**
 - **Guidance: 10:1** "They were all under the cloud..."
 - **God's Presence**
 - **God's guidance**
 - **Deliverance: 10:1** "They all passed through the sea..."
 - **Psalms 77:19-20** "Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron..."
 - **Their faith was tested**
 - **God delivered through the sea**
 - **This was the ultimate deliverance out of Egypt**
 - **Covenanted: 10:2** "They all were baptized unto Moses..."
 - **Provision:**
 - **10:3** "They all ate the same spiritual meat..."
 - **10:4** "They all drank the same spiritual drink..."
 - **Failure: 10:5** "But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness..."
 - **Discontentment: 10:6** "They lusted after evil things..."
 - **Idolatry: 10:7** "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play
 - **Sexual immorality: 10:8** "Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand..."
 - **Consequences:** An untimely and unnatural death
 - **Baal Peor: Numbers 25**
 - **Fiery Serpents in the Wilderness: Number 21**
 - **Korah's Rebellion: Numbers 16**
 - **Lesson:**
 - God graciously gives us many good gifts.
 - These good gifts do not guarantee good outcomes.

- It is possible to rebel against God's goodness and face temporal irreversible consequences.
- This happened to the wilderness generation and it was happening in the Corinthian church.

Truth 3: Learning from the past brings grounded living: 10:12-14

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry..."

- **Humility: 10:12** "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall..."
- **Balance: 10:13** "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man..."
- **Confidence in God's faithfulness: 10:13** "But God is faithful..."
- **Confidence in God's sovereignty: 10:13** "Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able..."
- **Confidence in God's goodness: 10:13** "Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able..."
- **Confidence in God's benevolence: 10:13** "But will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it..."
- **Responsible: 10:14** "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry..."

Application:

- Do not neglect all scripture, including the Old Testament.
- Do not miss the "big picture" themes in scripture.
- Learn from the past and allow it to build your worldview:
 - Walk soberly with an honest assessment of yourself.
 - Keep your struggles and the struggles of those around you in perspective.
 - Rest in the faithfulness of God and flee to Him when you are struggling.
 - Rest in His active work in your life.
 - Rest in the goodness of His character that guides how He works in our lives.
 - Rejoice in the promise that He is for us not against us when we face difficulties.
 - Look for the means He has provided for victory.
 - Do not make excuses for your actions.
- Never forget that there are real life consequences for presumptuous sin.