

**The Beauty of the Christian CommUNITY**  
 Studies in the First and Second Epistles to Corinthians  
**I Corinthians 10:1-32**

**“Experience Is Not The Best Teacher, Listen To Sound Wisdom Is”**

**Introduction:** *“Experience tells you what you ought to do and what you’d do best to avoid. It tells you how things should be done when we are much more interested in how things shouldn’t be done”.* Paul reminded the Corinthians of how the Israelites brought consequences for themselves in the wilderness for the next 40 years. (Exodus 32:2-10) (Numbers 14:1-29)

**I. Israel Error Is Lessons To Learn From (V1-12)**

- A. Paul did not want the Corinthians to be unaware of the fate of the Israelites in the wilderness, he was warning them. (Exodus 32:2-10) (Numbers 14:1-29)**
- B. They traveled through the wilderness under the direction and guidance of the Lord in the form of pillars of cloud and fire that went before them to lead the way. For that cloud is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God's abiding presence. He was the cloud that guided the children of Israel through the wilderness.**

**Note: Baptized into Moses (V2)**

**Moses was the messenger of God's Law and God's favor rested on Moses. Paul says figuratively that the people who followed him were baptized into Moses. Paul was stating that the Israelites were put figuratively into Moses; i.e. they were now identified with Moses in terms of God's favor.**

- C. Paul wanted the Corinthians to take heed of the examples that were left behind by the Israelites and not *crave evil* things. Craving evil things puts us in conflict with God’s will. (Hebrews 3:7-13)**

**II. Temptation Can Strengthen Us If We Take God’s Way of Escape (V13)**

- A. We must endure temptation; we are blessed when we do. When any test does not overcome us, God allows us to come in contact with it. (James 1:12-14) (Proverbs 4:14-15)**
- B. (Job 2:1-10) Bad things happen in our lives. When they do, we must cling more tightly to the hope we have in Christ.**
- C. Temptation does not come from God. *“Our faith in God and our love for God are tested with every temptation. And every test, if we do not act in faith, can result in our falling into temptation”.* (James 1:13-16)**

### III. Loyalty Can Not Be Divided (V14-22)

- A. Paul has just issued a command that the Corinthian Christians must run away from idol worship of any kind.
- B. "Cup of Blessing," Paul is referring to the "cup of thanksgiving (eulogia) for which we give thanks. It is a feast of remembrance, proclamation, blessing of God, and thanksgiving towards him. (V16-17)
- C. The false teachers at Corinth, who, it seems, were Jews, and who, to ingratiate themselves with the Corinthians, are supposed to have encouraged them to eat of the idol's sacrifices. (V18-21)
- D. Those who worship false gods are, consciously or without knowing, *pledging their loyalty to evil spirits* who desire to take over God's rightful place in *our hearts*. (Deuteronomy 32:16–17) (1 Timothy 4:1-5)

### IV. Having A Right, Does Not Mean I Should Do it. (V23-33)

- A. The Greek word for edify, *oikodomeo*, also means to construct or to build. (Romans 14)
- B. Paul was addressing that the freedom to do something does not mean we should do it. We must think carefully about how our decisions affect our brothers or sisters in Christ. (Romans 14:13-21) V23-25)
- C. The question is, why am I doing what I'm doing? Is it to please men or God? Every moment of our day, including those moments that seem insignificant, presents an opportunity to be glorifying God. (V31)
- D. We must understand that salvation is the goal. Not pleasing myself but denying myself for "the Kingdom". (V32-33) (Matthew 16:24–26)

#### Philippians 3:7-8

But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ,

