

I Corinthians 10 – 26 December 2021

“Do No Harm Part 3 of 3: Get Godliness”

Introduction

- *We're in a very practical book, teaching us about:
 - Divisions (*Chapters 1-4*), Disputes (*Chapters 5-6*)
 - Christian marriage when ideal is lost (*Chap 7*)
 - Conscience issues & Christian Liberty (*Chap 8-10*)
 - Proper public worship (*Chap 11-14*)
 - Doctrine of the Resurrection (*Chap 15-16*)

*Whole section (chap 8-10) has been all about how to deal with practical issues & interactions of life that arise

*Chap 8 – Decide conscience issues from a place of love, knowledge and humility

*Chap 9 – Even in issues involving our rights; live out our calling of giving & not expecting to receive

*Chap 10 – The greatest thing we can do to help others is to GET GODLINESS

*Best way to help others come close to God is for you to role-model being close to God

***Today 3 tools to G.E.T. Godliness**

1st tool to G.E.T. Godliness is to Guard Yourself: Even believers can easily fall into sin (Vs 1-12)

Read Vs 1-4

1. Baptized = They were all identified together w/ Moses, his mission & his God
2. Notice vs 4 - These things are a shadow of being identified w/ Jesus Christ
 - a. Under Cloud: They had God's presence
 - b. Passed thru sea: They had God's deliverance
 - c. Same food/drink: They had God's provision
3. That the water that came from the rock pictures Jesus Christ explains why it was so wrong to strike the Rock the second time! (Num 20:10)
4. So, opening point is 'they all came into a great chance at relationship with God thru Moses'

Read Vs 5-6

1. OT stories were written for even us to learn from. Even to learn practical living
2. God hand-picked these OT accounts for us

Read Vs 7-10

1. Specific heart-conditions to watch out for
 - a. Vs 6b – Lust/greed = not satisfied w/ God
 - i. Are you satisfied in a life w/ God?
 - ii. God has a destination for you that's good!
 - b. Vs 7 – Idolatry (golden calf) – They made God & religion the way they wanted it to be
 - i. You willing to accept God the way He is?
 - c. Vs 8 – Fornication – One partner for life wasn't enough for them
 - d. Vs 9 – Tempt Christ – (Read Exo 17:6-7) they said, “is the Lord among us or not” b/c they didn't like their food or provision
 - i. You satisfied w/ God provision for you?
 - e. Vs 10 – Murmur – they longed to go back to Egypt – for the leeches and onions
 - i. You satisfied with the path God has you on?

Read Vs 11

1. We should read the OT and learn, not just what to do, but what happens to those that don't
2. Don't let the world take away your peace in Jesus

Read Vs 12

1. The power & holiness of God should give us a respectful reverence (called - the fear of the Lord)
2. Be humbled by what happened to OT sinners
3. *Read Prov 4:20-23 – So how do we guard ourselves? By being disciplined in God's Word!*

2nd tool to G.E.T. Godliness is to Examine Yourself: You're either moving toward God or sin (Vs 13-22)

Read Vs 13

1. All generations face same temptations of sin
2. There are others around you tempted by the same types of sins you're tempted by – reach out
3. The good news – ALL OF IT is conquerable thru the power of Christ Jesus in you!

Read Vs 14

1. Idolatry = the temptation to be discontent w/ God and change the passion of our life to another

2. This has many applications
 - a. Flee from false religions
 - b. Flee from false forms of Christianity
 - c. Flee from making another else your passion
 - d. In this case Paul is specifically talking about fleeing the idolatry in the pagan temples

Read Vs 15-17

1. As Israel were identified w/ Moses, we, the church, are identified w/ Jesus in the communion & fellowship of the wine & bread
2. Paul will address the communion service in detail in chap 11 but for now, he's making point that we're showing other we're in agreeance

Read Vs 18-20

1. Part to abstain from isn't the meat; but it's the practice having fellowship in sacrifice to false gods
2. Don't eat there allowing others to think you're in agreement with what they teach and believe

Read Vs 21

1. What does he mean you can't do both?
 - a. Read Matt 6:24 – if you love the idol then you hate God
 - b. Believers will either listen to the Holy Spirit or they'll 'burn out the clutch', but living a double-life can only last so long

Read Vs 22

1. Trying both worlds is adultery & angers God
2. You're either moving towards God or moving towards sin
 - a. Like a circle w/ God's heart in the middle
 - i. There're many vectors you can go toward
 - ii. But only ONE center
 - iii. You can only be moving in one direction
3. *Read Psm 26:2 - So how do we examine ourselves? By being disciplined by God thru prayer*

3rd tool to G.E.T. Godliness is to Tighten Yourself: Honor God by avoiding even appearance of sin (Vs 23-33)

Read Vs 23-24

1. Do only those things that are profitable and things that build yourself & others up
 - a. As you would with monetary transactions
2. That should be our perspective toward sin – its biggest problem isn't that it's wrong, but that it's harmful – harmful to self and others

Read Vs 25-26

1. Meat is just meat, eat; for it's God's provision
2. You're not partaking in pagan rituals just b/c you bought meat from the market

Read Vs 27-29a

1. If knowledge comes that could possibly make it appear like you're a part of pagan ritual, then abstain
2. Avoid even the appearance of agreeing with the false religious practice – others are watching

Read Vs 29b-30

1. Don't give other believers an occasion to judge the conscience issues that you allow
2. So, we certainly avoid sin, that just makes us a moralist, but we also avoid things that would make others think we're sinning...that makes us godly

Read Vs 31-32

1. Honor God in such a way that we're not offending people with our habits that we allow
2. Before every indulgence just ask, would this please my Heavenly Father?

Read Vs 33

1. Paul's geared toward trying to profit and help as many people as I can, not himself
2. Are we geared toward trying to profit others?
3. *Read Gal 5:13 – So how do we tighten ourselves? By serving others in fellowship*

Conclusion

In all manner of personal practices, having the goal of personal godliness is the best way to be prepared to offer love & help to others. So how do we GET godliness?

1. Guard Ourselves: Even believers can easily fall into sin

- a. Many people fall into harm simply b/c they think they have what it takes to withstand sin
- b. We need God's Word to wash us daily

2. Examine Ourselves: Are we moving towards God or towards sin?

- a. We're putting our time/energy into pursuing the heart of God or the edge of Christianity
- b. Spend time w/ God in prayer & have Him search us and try us

3. Tighten Ourselves: Honor God by avoiding even the appearance of sin

- a. Are we willing to let go of this world for the greater cause of Christ & salvation?
- b. Stay tight w/ believers & experience the joy of godly fellowship