

1 CORINTHIANS 10

watch out for your own sake; watch out for your neighbor's sake

Review / Preview

In chapter 9, Paul gave an example of the proper exercise of Christian freedom. He forwent the right he had to receive financial support from the Corinthians, in order to remove any doubt that Jesus' forgiveness is free. He then used the illustration of a professional athlete to emphasize the single-mindedness and self-discipline required in the Christian life for the sake of others, and for the sake of oneself.

In chapter 10, Paul points to the children of Israel after their deliverance from Egypt as a negative example of Christian self-discipline. Even though they had every advantage when it came to God's grace, their sin and unbelief "disqualified" them from the prize. Let them serve as warnings for Corinthians who would toy with idolatry. ***If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!***

Outline

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| 10:1-13 | Warnings from Israel's history: They spurned God's grace and fell away into destruction |
| 10:14-22 | Participation in an idol's altar is participation with demons |
| 10:23-30 | Specific instructions regarding idol-food in the food market & private settings |
| 10:31-11:1 | Do everything for the glory of God |

Verses 1-5. Paul describes the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.

What historical realities are referred to by...

...the cloud?

...the sea?

...spiritual food?

...spiritual drink?

Paul's point about the Israelites: Even though they **all** had every advantage when it came to God's grace, _____.

Verses 6-13. Examples of falls from grace among the Israelites. To what incident does each refer?

idolatry (7)

sexual immorality (8)

test the Lord (9)

grumble (10)

Discussion. What value in knowing Old Testament history is demonstrated by this passage?

Discussion. Verses 12 (watch out!) and 13 (don't worry) seem to contradict each other.

To whom is verse 12 addressed?

Verse 13?

What are some examples of "ways out?"

Verses 14-22. The warnings from Israel's history are recalled specifically to apply to the Corinthians' toying with food sacrificed to idols. In chapter 8, Paul warned them about the danger it posed to fellow Christians with weak consciences. Here he warns them of the danger it poses to themselves.

Paul uses what takes place in the Lord's Supper to illustrate what takes place when they eat idol food.

In what way is the cup/bread of communion a "participation in the blood/body of Christ?"

In what way are the communicants one body?

Even though idol-food and idols are nothing, with what does an idol-food-eater participate?

Discussion. Beyond the realm of Holy Communion, what application does this passage have for us?

10:23-11:1. Paul repeats the Corinthian slogan he first cited in 6:12. The Corinthians were making irresponsible and sinful choices in the name of Christian freedom. Christian freedom is carried out in the service of God and others.

What is Paul's instruction and his rationale for it when it comes to...

...food purchased in the market?

...food eaten in another's home?

Is Paul departing from his principle laid down in 10:14-22?

Discussion. Paul broadens the scope of his application in 10:31-11:1. Which part of the Christian's life is for "the glory of God?" What purpose does God accomplish through this "godly" living?

