



## **Message Series Guide**

### **Imperfect Church – I Corinthians**

#### **Part 15 – Warning from the Wilderness**

#### **I Corinthians 10:1-13**

In many ways, the Corinthians had abused the freedoms they had in Christ. In some cases, they were using their liberty as a license to sin. Such an attitude stands in stark contrast to what the Word of God teaches regarding obedience to the Lord. In I Corinthians 10, Paul points to Israel's dark history as an illustration of how (or how not to) behave in our Christian life. Israel's relationship with God did not exempt them from sin nor the judgement of God. The same is true for the church today. We must heed the warnings from the wilderness.

### **READ:**

**I Corinthians 10:1-13 • Isaiah 13:11 • Romans 2:4 • Exodus 32 • Numbers 25:1-9  
Numbers 21:1-6 • Numbers 14:2 • 2 Samuel 22:2 • Psalm 118:22 • I Peter 2:8**

- How can God be both a God of mercy and a God of justice/judgement?
- What point was Paul making in the first 4 verses of I Corinthians 10 by repeating the word, “all”?
- What was the cloud that Paul refers to in I Corinthians 10:1? What does it mean that, “they all passed through the sea (verse 1)? What did it mean that the people of Israel were “baptized into Moses,” and how is that related to our relationship with Christ today (verse 2)? What was the physical and spiritual food and drink the Israelites partook of after leaving Egypt (verse 3)? Who was the “spiritual Rock” that accompanied the Israelites in the wilderness? Why do you think Paul emphasized the presence of Christ in the exodus of the Israelites?
- Why was God not pleased with most of the Israelites during the exodus? What four “warnings” or examples does Paul give regarding God’s judgements against the Israelites in verses 7-10? How was God’s judgement exacted against the Israelites in all four cases? Discuss how each of the four warnings (examples) are relevant to us today?
- Why is it important that we understand that all the temptations we face are common to everyone? How did Jesus overcome temptation? How is God faithful to help us overcome temptation?

### **DISCUSS:**

- What is the value for us today in understanding the history of the ancient Israelites?
- What’s your greatest temptation? How do you typically fight temptation?
- Idolatry, sexual immorality, pride and grumbling were all sin problems for the Israelites. How do we struggle with the same temptations today? How do you see God’s hand of judgement today?
- Are you ever tempted to see God as the source of your struggles rather than the solution to your struggles? How does this perspective affect you?
- Think about your last temptation. Was there a way out? How can you get better at taking the way out?

### **PRAY:**

The next time you face temptation, pray that the Lord reveals the way of escape and that you are obedient to go through it.

### **RESPOND:**

This week, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any unconfessed sin in your life. Call upon the Lord’s grace and mercy.



# **Message Sermon Notes**

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### **Part 15 – Warning from the Wilderness**

#### **I Corinthians 10:1-13**

We should never mistake God's patience for His approval.

#### **Four Warning from the Wilderness (I Corinthians 1:7-10)**

- 1.) Warning against Idolatry
- 2.) Warning against Sexual Immorality
- 3.) Warning against Putting Christ to the Test
- 4.) Warning against Grumbling

#### **Quote:**

*Idolatry happens when we take good things and make them ultimate things.* – Tim Keller

Sexual immorality is any type of sexual expression outside the boundaries of a biblically defined marriage relationship.

Putting the Lord to the test means accusing Him of being unfaithful and unjust (a sin of pride).

Grumbling is the absence of gratitude. Gratitude is the absence of grumbling.

#### **Our Hope:**

- 1.) Temptation is common for all of us.
- 2.) God is faithful and won't allow us to be tempted beyond our strength.
- 3.) God has already given us everything we need to be victorious.