

1. Our study of 1 Corinthians has a lot of negative stuff in it
2. The Church at Corinth was a young church (all churches were new)
3. God had given that church many blessings

1 Corinthians 1:4 I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,

⁵ that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,

⁶ even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,

⁷ **so that** you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

4. But they were fighting among themselves
5. They were suing each other in court
6. They were proud of their open mindedness & celebrated immorality
7. They had no concern for the wellbeing of weaker believers
8. He reminded them that there was a payday coming
 - a. They needed to live all out for Christ
9. We have come to chapter 10 today

1 Corinthians 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

³ and all ate the same spiritual food;

⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved.

10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

1. "our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea"
 - a. To understand what you are about to study you must go back connect them w/ the 4 previous verses

b. You are in a race – like it or not – **1 Cor.9:24**

1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

1. “but *only* one receives the prize”

a. This life is a race – a challenge to get to the finish line

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance **the race** that is set before us,

b. There is a reward to be won – at the end of life

c. But not everyone will win get the reward

d. Just as those athletic events could only have one winner – in the game of life there is only one winner

e. We don’t compete against each other but against our enemies: the world, the flesh, the devil

i. We either win or we lose against them

2. “Run in such a way that you may win”

a. This is in the subjunctive mood

i. You don’t have a choice about being in the race – **BUT** you have a choice to win or lose

ii. Not making a choice is making the choice – not to win

V.25 And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

1. “everyone...exercises self-control...They...*do it* to receive a perishable wreath”

a. He says that everyone who entered an Isthmian games lived a very disciplined, strenuous life & all they got was temporary recognition - & only then if they won their contest

iii. Each contestant of those games dedicated almost a year of their lives to prepare for their event

iv. The athletes looked forward to temporal glory at best

v. The Corinthians & believers look toward eternal rewards & eternal glory

- vi. But the Corinthians weren't even trying to win
- b. Today people dedicate their entire lives to Olympic games
- c. Yet believers don't seem to be invested in the Christian life enough to even try to win, though our rewards surpass the minds ability to grasp the greatness of them

1 Corinthians 2:9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

- i. Notice – those things are "for those who love Him"

V.26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

V.27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

1. "I buffet my body and make it my slave"
 - a. We need to live life w/ all the passion & strength we have
2. "lest...after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified"
 - a. Paul was a gifted man – but that was no guarantee that he was going to finish the race well
 - b. We should live life realizing that we can be disqualified from the prize (not salvation – salvation is a free gift)
 - c. This what Paul is explaining as he continues in chapter 10

10:1 x For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

V.2 x and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

1. "our fathers...all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea"
 - b. To understand what Paul is saying we must understand the word "baptized"
 - c. The word is a transliteration from βαπτίζω (baptidzo)
 - i. They took the Greek spelling & made an English word
 - d. The word means to immerse & that is what we think of when we hear the word "baptize"
 - e. But it means more than just to immerse – it also means to "identify with"
 - f. There are 7 baptisms mentioned in Scripture

- i. Believer's baptism (a wet baptism)
 - Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, " All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
 - ¹⁹ " Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
- ii. Baptism of John the Baptist (for Israel only – a wet baptism)
 - Matthew 3:4** Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair, and a leather belt about his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.
 - ⁵ Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea, and all the district around the Jordan;
 - ⁶ and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.
- iii. Jesus baptism (for Christ only – a wet baptism)
 - Matthew 3:13** Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan *coming* to John, to be baptized by him.
- iv. Baptizing the living for the dead (false doctrine – wet baptism)
 - 1 Corinthians 15:29** Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?
- v. Baptism of Moses (a dry baptism – no water on Israelites)
 - 1 Corinthians 10:2** and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
- vi. Baptism of the Holy Spirit (a dry baptism – no water)
 - Acts 1:5** for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
- vii. Baptism by fire (a dry baptism – no water)
 - Matthew 3:11** "As for me^(John the baptist) I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- viii. So, you see not all baptisms have to do w/ water

- ix. They weren't immersed (baptized) into the sea or into the cloud

10:1 x For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

V.2 x and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

1. "our fathers...all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea"

- a. What is he saying here?
- b. The word "baptized" here means to identify with
- c. The people identified w/ Moses' trust in God
 - i. The only people who were immersed were the Egyptians & they didn't fare so well
 - ii. People trying to turn this into immersion miss the meaning of this passage all together

- d. Paul is trying to make a point that needs to be thought seriously about
- e. He is saying: these people had an unimaginable amount of God's blessings working on their behalf
- f. They were made to identify w/ Moses

- g. If you remember Pharaoh turned them loose after 10 plagues that ruined Egypt
 - i. After Pharaoh turned them loose he regretted it & decided to go get them & bring them back
- h. Israel was camped by the Red Sea and had nowhere to run
- i. When they saw Pharaoh's army they were scared to death

- j. Moses said – "Calm down, God is going to take care of us"
 - i. Look how panicked the people were when they saw Egypt's army

Exodus 14:10 And as Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD.

¹¹ Then they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt?"

1. "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?"

- a. Fear caused them to not think rationally
- b. But look at Moses at this time **V.13**

V.13 But Moses said to the people, " Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever."

^{V.14} " The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."

1. "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today"
 - a. Then the cloud & pillar of fire separated the Egyptians from the Israelites so that the Egyptians couldn't get to the Israelites to harm them
 - b. The people were still scared to death but when Moses raises his staff & the sea parted, then the people identified w/ Moses' trust in God & they were delivered
 - c. Were the people still afraid? Yes – did they act on what they were told? Yes! they crossed the Red Sea anyway **V.19&f**

V.19 And the angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them.

^{V.20} So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Thus the one did not come near the other all night.

^{V.21} Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD swept the sea *back* by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided.

^{V.22} And the sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters *were like* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

- d. What a miracle!!
- e. Can you imagine what that must have been like?
- f. Then he continues reminding them of the miracles **V.3**

10:1 x For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

V.2 x and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

V.3 and all ate the same spiritual food;

1. "all ate the same spiritual food"
 - a. Those people were led into the wilderness by God

b. They were so numerous they quickly ran out of food **Ex.16**

Exodus 16:1 Then they set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt.

² And the whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

³ And the sons of Israel said to them, " Would that we had died by the LORD'S hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.

⁵ "And it will come about on the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the sons of Israel, "At evening you will know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt;

⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, for He hears your grumblings against the LORD; and what are we, that you grumble against us?"

1. "rain bread from heaven...you will know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt" (**V.6**)

a. God supplied food for Israel for 40 years in the wilderness

b. Just so that you grasp the size of that project:

i. For that group of people it took about **1500 tons** of food per day to feed the people

ii. That is about **90 million pounds** of food per month

iii. That equals **1 freight** train **2 miles** long **per day**

iv. That is over **1 billion pounds** of food per year

v. It would take **6 trains 1 mile long each** to haul the **fire wood** to cook for each day

vi.

V.4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

1. "they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them"

a. How much water did it take to live?

vii. It would take approx. **11,000,000 gal.** of water **per day** if no one took a bath – that is **only one tanker train 1800 miles long**

b. Do you want to guess at how much toilet paper they needed?

c. How big is God???

i. Can you imagine what they saw?

ii. The miracles, the blessings they saw daily

V.5 *Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased;* for they were laid low in the wilderness.

1. "Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased...they were laid low in the wilderness"
 - a. Most of them died
 - b. In fact all but 2 of them died in the wilderness
 - i. Why? – because of **unbelief**
 - c. Let's back up & see what Paul is saying as we look at it all together

1 Corinthians 9:26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

27 *but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.*

1. "I buffet my body...lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified"
 - a. Paul said, "I can't trust myself to automatically do what I should"
 - b. "I can't always take the easy routes in life"
 - c. "I must be on guard against becoming complacent, lazy, relaxed about my Christian walk"

10:1 For I do not want you to be **unaware**, brethren, that our fathers were **all** under the cloud, and **all** passed through the sea;

2 and **all** were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

3 and **all** ate the same spiritual food;

4 and **all** drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

5 *Nevertheless, with **most** of them God was not well-pleased;* for they were laid low in the wilderness.

1. "Nevertheless"

- a. After all God did for them – they still failed at life
 - i. After showing them how big He is they still didn't trust Him

V.6 Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved.

1. "these things happened as **examples** for us"

- a. God has never done for a people what He has done for us
- b. No one has ever been blessed the way we have been blessed – not even Israel
- c. We weren't baptized unto Moses – We were baptized **into** Christ

Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

V.13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

Colossians 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

- d. We were baptized into His death when we believed in Christ
 - i. Being identified w/ Him in death means sin lost its power over us
 - ii. He has given us the power to defeat sin in our lives
- e. We were also baptized into His resurrection
 - i. Being identified w/ Him in His resurrection means that a new power for living has been granted to us
 - ii. He has given us the power to live successfully in our lives

2. "we should not crave evil things, as they also craved"

- a. They simply ignored all God had done & lived their own lives for themselves

- b. We can do exactly the same thing
- c. We can ignore what Christ did for us on the cross & live for ourselves
- d. We get sucked into what is here & now instead of looking & focusing on the future
- e. The race is on! It is you against the world, the flesh, the devil
 - i. Who will win?
- f. We are told how to run the race
 - i. We are to focus on Christ – He is the finish line!

Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised up^(by baptism) with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your mind on the things above, **not** on the things that are on earth.

³ For you have died^(by baptism) and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory^(the prize)

- g. The more we remind ourselves of what God has done for us & what He has promised us it begins to change our way of thinking
- h. We can never let our guard down – but it does get easier to remember who we are
- i. Paul sums up the need to keep the body in control & put the mind in good order in another place in Scripture

Romans 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.