

“Principles of Christian Liberty – Part 3”

I Corinthians 10:1-13

I. Introduction: Self-Discipline vs. Being a Castaway

- A. “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway” (1 Corinthians 9:27)
- B. Paul carries this thought into chapter 10: Practice self-discipline. Christian liberty must be balanced by caution
- C. Paul is warning the overconfident (1 Cor. 1:12)
- D. There are three main lessons we learn in this text

II. Blessings are No Guarantee of Success (vv. 1-4)

- A. Don't be ignorant
 - 1. The Rapture
 - 2. Spiritual Gifts
- B. Paul used the word “all” five times in these four verses. All Israel had the same blessings, yet all did not succeed
- C. What were the blessings that all Israel enjoyed?
 - 1. They were all under the cloud (v. 1b)
 - a) Exodus 13:21-22, “And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night *from* before the people”
 - b) God's presence, protection, and guidance
 - 2. They all passed through the sea (v. 1c)
 - a) For us – redemption from the bondage of sin
 - b) It was a supernatural redemption
 - 3. They were all baptized unto Moses (v. 2)
 - a) Identification
 - b) New Testament –by the Holy Spirit
 - 1) Into Christ
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12:13 “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ”
 - 4. They all ate the Spiritual food (v. 3)
 - a) Manna – food from heaven
 - 1) It was “spiritual” because of its heavenly origin and it's spiritual significance

- 2) Jesus said, "Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world... And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life" - John 6:32-33, 35
5. They all drank the same water (v. 4)
 - a) Exodus 17 at Rephidim
 - 1) A picture of Christ
 - 2) The danger of falling into sin. Spiritual privileges never give us license to sin

III. A Good Beginning Does Not Guarantee a Good Ending (vv. 5-10)

- A. Story of Kadesh-Barnea: "Fear" and "Unbelief" (vv. 5-6)
- B. As we read the stories of Israel's sins in the Old Testament, we should learn to avoid them. "We should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted" (v. 6)
- C. What were some of their sins?
 1. Idolatry (v. 7) Exodus 32
 - a) For us – anything that takes God's place
 2. Fornication – (v. 8)
 - 1) Baalaam's story and the incident at Shittim (Numbers 25:1-2) Such sexual sin, both real, and imagined is a direct result of intimate involvement in the practices of a pagan society. Revelation 2:14, "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality"
 3. Tempting the Lord (v. 9)
 - a) Numbers 21 and Exodus 17. The Israelites complained about their lack of food and water. They thought that life was better back in Egypt. So God sent poisonous snakes. God provided a serpent of brass
 - b) Remember the cure - it's looking to Jesus in faith (John 3:14-15)
 4. Murmuring (v. 10)
 - a) Numbers 16 – story of rebellion by Korah and Dathan

IV. God Can Help Us Overcome Temptation (vv. 11-13)

1. Israel's history is an admonition to us. A warning designed to change past behavior and to introduce new patterns of life (v. 11)
2. The warnings (v. 12) "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall"
3. Proverbs 16:18: "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall"

4. Illustrations – Peter’s first step to falling was overconfidence. Second, he was prayerless; third, he was following from afar off; fourthly, he was warming himself by the enemy’s fire, and lastly, he stumbled and fell, denying he even knew Jesus Christ
5. God is faithful (v. 13)
 - a) “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it”
 - 1) Temptations or tests are part of the believer’s life. They are common human experiences. God permits them, but He is not the source
 - 2) The source of temptation is our sinful lust
 - 3) He will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability to resist
 - 4) Lamentations 3:22-23 “Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness
 - 5) The way to escape
 - a. Run
 - b. Obey His word
 - c. Keep our eyes on Jesus