

# 1 Corinthians Chapter 10

NKJV Notes by **Pastor Bob Caldwell**

## Old Testament Examples (Verses 1-13)

**v.1 Moreover** - Paul had just taught in chapter 9 that self-denial and the discipline of our lives was an integral part of becoming effective in our lives for Christ. Here he builds on this concept to show the caution we should maintain so we do not fall into sin. (v.12-14)

**To Be Unaware** - Paul is now going to review for these Corinthian believers the many privileges of divine intervention the Jews experienced during their exodus from Egypt. However, these overwhelming experiences with God did not protect them from the sin they fell into. Paul uses this example because it seems the Corinthians had succumb to a false sense of security in their stand against sin. Paul is seeking to warn them that the spiritual understanding and gifts they had experienced were not in themselves sufficient to help them in overcoming temptation.

**Our Fathers** - Paul refers to the Jews as apart of the history of these believing Gentiles because when a Gentile converts to Christ he is "grafted" into the Jewish history. (Rom. 11:11-18)

**Under the Cloud** - This cloud, Shechinah Glory of God was a divine manifestation of God's protection and guidance to the Jews as they left Egypt and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. (Ex. 13:21-22; 14:20; Num. 10:34; Is 4:5)

**Through the Sea** - This refers to the miraculous parting of the Red Sea and the deliverance through it which provided an escape from the attacking Egyptian army.

**v.2 Baptized Into Moses** - Baptism means to be "immersed." For the Christian we are baptized into the Body of Believers, into Christ Himself and into water as a symbol of our immersion into Christ. Here Paul seeks to identify the miraculous experience of the exodus from Egypt and the Jews identification with Moses as akin to the believers exodus from the world and identification, immersion into Christ. Remember, Paul's goal is to show the Corinthians that their Christian experiences just like the Jews with Moses, does not make a person immune from falling into sin.

**v.3 Spiritual Food** - The manna that God provided for the Jews during their wilderness journey is referred to here as spiritual to express it's origin as sourced in the supernatural. (Ex. 16:15;35; Num. 9:15,20; Ps. 128)

**v.4 Spiritual Drink** - This refers to the supernatural provision of water God provided from a rock at Mt. Horeb. The water from this source must have produced a large stream of water since it served the entire nation of Israel. (Ex. 17:6; Num 20:11)

**Follow Them** - This seems to refer to a stream of water that came from Mt. Horeb that followed the route of the people. There the term rock is used instead of water in a similar way to the language in regards to the Lord's supper. The bread is referred to as "my body" when the blood is referred to as "this is my cup." (1 Cor. 11:24-25)

**Rock Was Christ** - The Messiah "Christ" is seen here as portrayed in this miraculous supply of life giving water. Paul concludes here his effort to show the many parallels between the experience of the Jews and the Corinthians in expressing God's intervention.

**v.5 Not Well Pleased** - Because of their rebellion and sin against God, the entire generation except for Caleb and Joshua, died in the wilderness. It was the next generation of Jews who went into the promised land with Joshua and Caleb. (Num. 14:29-30)

**v.6 Our Example** - Paul asks these believers to learn from the sins and failures of these Jews he has described.

**Not Just** - Paul warns that the desires of our hearts must be redirected from that which is evil.

**As They** - Paul now gives specific examples of how the Jews fell into sin.

**v.7 Become Idolaters** - Paul refers here to the instance of the worship associated with idolatry found in Exodus 33:22.

**v.8 Commit Fornication** - Paul refers here to the sexual sin committed with the daughters of Moab recorded in Numbers 25:1-9.

**Twenty Three Thousand Fell** - This refers to the people who died from a plague sent by God in judgment for their sin that is recorded in Numbers 25:9. In that text 24,000 are referred to as dying which may have included an additional 1,000 that died by the hand of Phenehas and the other priest or those who died later as a result of this plague.

**v.9 Nor Tempt Christ** - Paul refers here to those actions that God's people may do or say that may provoke God to action. In the example Paul uses here from Exodus 21 the people were provoking God to anger by their rejection of His provision of manna and His efforts to bring them through the wilderness to the promised land.

Jesus referred to this issue of tempting God when a person purposefully puts themselves in a situation that they think will force the hand of God to work. (Mt. 4:5-7)

**v.10 Nor Complain** - Paul refers here to those events surrounding the murmuring of the people against Moses and Aaron recorded in Numbers 16:32-41.

**The Destroyer** - After Korah's rebellion was ended by being swallowed up by the earth, 14,700 people who complained about Korah and his family's death also died. The destroying angel is also referred to in Exodus 12:23; 2 Samuel 24:15-16; 2 Chronicles 32:21.

**v.11 Admonition** - "nouthesia" (Gk.) This word is used to convey a warning. The general warning Paul is asking them to face is that even though these Jews had been given many powerful experiences with God it did not keep them from falling into the same sins that were such a problem in Corinth. Paul believed that this church's false sense of spiritual superiority was only setting them up for a tragic fall.

**Ends of the World** - This term was used in general to refer to this last dispensation of time, i.e. this present age of salvation by the gospel, as well as the last generation before the return of Christ to judge the world.

**v.12 Think He Stands** - Proverbs 16:18 warns of the "pride that goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall." The scriptures are full of examples as cited here (10:1-10) where the most dangerous place in life is the one that is not a place of humble dependency upon God and relies solely on one's self.

**v.13 Temptation** - This is a word that conveys the subtle devices of sin, from our fallen nature, a fallen age, and satanic forces to foster our own destruction and alienation from God.

**Overtaken** - This points to the efforts of sin to conquer a person in bringing them into the bondage of that sin. (Rom. 6:17-21)

**Common to Man** - One of the most deceptive aspects of sin is to cause a person to believe he is uniquely under the power of temptations that others don't face and therefore it should be understandable that he cannot resist its unique force upon his life. Therefore, Paul seeks to make it clear that in a real sense all people face the same temptation in one form or another. We are told even Jesus faced the essence of all temptation. (Heb. 4:15)

**v.13 God Is Faithful** - What Paul points out here is that God will be true to His character and promises in regards to His people. He will faithfully answer our prayer to "not lead us into temptation" (Matt. 6:13), and intervene as a Father for the help and security of His children.

**Not Allow** - The Bible teaches that God is not the source of temptation. (James 1:13-15) However, He is all powerful and all knowing and that enables Him to providently order the events of His children so that temptation and troubles work for their ultimate good. Therefore, He will not allow any temptation to be such that it would be impossible to endure it or escape from it.

## **Flee From Idolatry (Verses 14-22)**

**v.14 Therefore** - Paul now gives advice based upon what he has taught thus far. First these believers need to admit they are not as strong as they think in their stand against sin. (v.12) based on the examples of the Jews. (v.1-11) They also need to accept that God will faithfully make a way open for their escape from sins tempting traps.

**Flee** - Paul points to this practical solution in dealing with sin. By faith in God's faithful commitment to make a way of escape the believer is to take steps to immediately and aggressively remove himself from tempting situations. This is in contrast to those who have a false sense of strength that encourage them to maintain exposure to temptation, believing they will not fall prey to its influence.

**v.15 To Wise Men** - Paul knows that his teaching on this issue is something that can stand the test of mature believers and therefore should be confirmed by them as wise council for the entire church.

**v.16 Cup of Blessing** - Paul points here to worshipping God in the partaking of communion.

**v.17 One Bread** - Paul reminds them that in communion the believer is celebrating his spiritual union with Christ in partaking of Him that is symbolized in communion. This celebration also points to the fact that this

also expresses the oneness of all believers who share in this union with Christ. (John 6:53-65)

**v.18 Israel After the Flesh** - This is the nation of the Jews in contrast to Gentile believers who are called "spiritual Israel."

**The Altar** - This refers to the sacrificial process of the O.T. Jewish worship.

**v.19 Idol Is Anything** - Paul had earlier said that meat offered to idols was okay to eat if it did not stumble other believers since in fact idols are not true gods. (8:4-6) However, he makes it clear here he is in no way validating idol worship as something that was of no consequences if participated with.

**v.20 Sacrifice to Demons** - Paul wants these believers to realize that even though idols do not represent forms of God they are in fact spiritually validated by demonic forces to counterfeit the power of God.

**v.21 Cup of Demons** - Paul now goes back to v.16 and shows that the cup of communion shared in worship to Jesus cannot be then shared with the demonically inspired worship of idols.

**v.22 To Jealousy** - The first and greatest of all the commandments is to love God with all that we are. It is because of God's will in making us the object of His love and the source of love to Him that He will not share us with other gods. (Ex. 20:5)

**Stronger Than He** - Paul asks if it is really reasonable to think we can override God's exclusive right of our supreme love.

## **All To The Glory Of God (Verses 23-33)**

**v.23 Edify** -"oikodomeo" (Gk.) This means to build up, like a house is built. Paul now gives a principle that will help any believer in discerning how to decide the best way to approach questionable or neutral issues. Will my decision foster the well being and spiritual growth of myself and or others?

**v.24 Others Well Being** - It's not enough to conclude an action won't harm myself. I must also question if it will or will not foster the spiritual growth of those exposed to my life and actions.

**v.25 Eat Whatever** - Paul has just stated the need to avoid any involvement with idolatry. He now reestablishes his former teaching that as long as meat that had been offered to idols is no way fosters the appearance that a Christian is sanctioning idol worship he should have no problem buying or eating the meat in question.

**Earth Is the Lord's** - Paul quotes Psalms 24:1 to show that the meat in and of itself is God's provision for mankind apart from the issue of idolatry.

**v.27 Invites You to Dinner** - Paul deals with the challenges of social activities with non believers. Paul's simple principle is that if the host thinks that by eating the meat you are acknowledging the idol it was scarified to as worthy of worship, then don't eat the meat since this would damage your witness of Christ as the only true and living God.

**v.28 Earth Is the Lord's** - Paul now applies this same verse (v.26) to advice a person who because of the sensitivity of the situation doesn't eat the meat not to worry, God who is sovereign can still provide other food to eat.

**v.29 My Liberty Judged** - Paul faces the fact that it may not be "fair" that his freedom to do certain things is misconstrued by others as acting sinfully but in the content of love he will defer to others as he will say in v. 31-33.

**v.31 Glory of God** -Paul gives another principle to live by. (v.23) Our overarching goal must be to reveal God's glorious perfections. In the issue of chapter 8-9 and again in 10:23-33 it is to be this goal to honor God's love revealed in a life of self denial by seeking first the well being of others or perfectly revealed by Jesus' death on the cross for sinners.

**v.32 Give No Offense** -Paul reveals here that our concern in not to do something that may hinder a person's understanding and approach to God should include all people, believers and unbelievers.

**v.33 Please All Men** - Paul does not refer to pleasing them in regards to accepting their sinful practices but in living a life that is sensitive to them so as the bring them to Christ.