

1Corinthians – Week 35

I. Quiz & Review

A. Paul's Disciplined Life (1Cor. 9:24-27)

- i. Paul compares the Christian's walk to running a race which involves:
 1. Self-control (1Cor. 9:25a)
 2. Motivation (1Cor. 9:25b)
 3. Efficiency (1Cor. 9:26)
 4. Rules (1Cor. 9:27)

II. Continuation: Chapter 10

A. As Paul was addressing the necessity of self-control, the example of Israel came to mind

- i. He remembers how indulgent and undisciplined they were, causing them to be “*disqualified*” or “*castaways*.”
- ii. He addresses Israel's privileges, punishment, and the causes of their downfall.
- iii. Then he explains how these things apply to the Christian.

B. The Privileges (they entered the race)

- i. 1Cor. 10:1-4 (ESV), “*For I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.*”

1. All under the cloud

- a. God's presence went before them in the form of a cloud as they exit Egypt (Exodus 13:21-22)
- b. As they traveled in the burning desert, the cloud was upon them (Numbers 10:34), protecting them as from the heat of the day.
- c. The cloud showed God's loving-kindness, guidance and protection.

2. All passed through the sea

- a. They all experienced a supernatural deliverance as they crossed the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21-22).

3. All baptized into Moses in the cloud and sea

- a. Just as baptism places us under Christ's authority, the people were placed under Moses' authority.

4. All ate spiritual food and drink

- a. Manna from heaven was given to all of them during their wilderness experience (Deut. 8:2-4)

b. Water from the rock:

- i. First at Mount Horeb in the wilderness of Zin (Exodus 17:1-7)
- ii. And again, at Kadesh (Numbers 20:1-13)

5. Paul called the food and drink “spiritual” because they came supernaturally.

6. In reality, it was Christ who followed them and provided what they needed!

C. The Punishment (they got disqualified)

- i. 1Cor. 10:5 (ESV), “*Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.*”

1. In spite of these blessings, similar to those that Christians enjoy, God was not happy with most of Israel.

- a. He permitted none of the adult, 20 years old and older, to enter the Promised Land, except Caleb and Joshua (Numbers 14:29-30).

b. Those who murmured died in the desert.

2. The Lesson: Being in Christ does not immunize us against God's discipline should we do evil in His sight!

- a. This is why Paul goes on to say in 1Cor. 10:6 (ESV), “*Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.*”

D. Israel's Sin (they ran the race wrongly)

- i. 1Cor. 10:7 (ESV), *“Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.’”*
 1. **Idolatry:** This refers to the Golden Calf of Exodus 32.
 2. When Moses came down from the mountain, he saw the people celebrating the idol with acts of merriment.
- ii. 1Cor. 10:8 (ESV), *“We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.”*
 1. **Immorality:** This refers to the Numbers 25, where the sons of Israel married pagan women, causing the sons of Israel to engage in pagan worship.
 2. Numbers 25:9 says a total of 24,000 died. Paul made reference of how many of them died in just one day (23,000).
- iii. 1Cor. 10:9 (ESV), *“We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents”*
 1. **Thanklessness:** This refers to Numbers 21, where we read of the people complaining about the food as opposed to expressing thankfulness to the Lord who provided the food.
 2. The attitude of one thanklessness person can spread among the congregation.
 3. God sent fiery serpents among them and many died as a result.
- iv. 1Cor. 10:10 (ESV), *“nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.”*
 1. **Rebelliousness:** This refers to the opposition of Korah and his associates in Numbers 16.
 2. He and his associates grumbled against Moses and God and were swallowed up into the earth.
 3. **Grumblers:** fault-finders & complainers who negatively impact others around them as in the case of Korah.
- v. Paul, again, issues the same warning of verse 7...
 1. 1Corinthians 10:11 (ESV), *“Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come”*
 - a. The term *“end of the ages”* refers to the last days or the Christian age (the New Testament era).