

## 1Corinthians – Week 36

### I. Review: Chapter 10:1-11

- A. While on the topic of running as to win, Paul brings up Israel as an example as to what it means to be disqualified
- B. Israel:
  - i. The Privileges (they entered the race) – vv. 1-4
    - 1. They all were under the cloud (Divine presence, guidance and protection)
    - 2. They all passed through the sea (they all crossed the Red Sea supernaturally)
    - 3. They all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and sea (under his leadership)
    - 4. They all ate spiritual food and drink (manna and water from the rock)
    - 5. Christ accompanied them.
- C. The Punishment (they got disqualified) – v. 5
  - i. God was not happy with most of them so they died in the wilderness, except Joshua and Caleb and the children under 20 years of age.
- D. Israel's Sin (they ran the race wrongly) – vv. 7-10
  - i. Idolatry: The Golden Calf (Exodus 32).
  - ii. Immorality: They engaged in pagan worship with Moabite women (Numbers 25)
  - iii. Thanklessness: They complained about God's provisions (Numbers 21)
  - iv. Rebelliousness: Korah and his associates grumbled against God and Moses (Num. 16)
    - 1. Grumblers include fault-finders and complainers who taint those around them,
- E. The Reason for these examples – vv. 7, 11
  - i. To keep us from running the race aimlessly.
  - ii. A warning not to do evil in the sight of the Lord.

### II. Continuation

- A. 1Cor. 10:12 (ESV), "*Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.*"
  - i. The term "therefore" makes a conclusion of what was previously said:
    - 1. Paul is telling them to learn from Israel's mistakes.
    - 2. Do not think that you are immune from disqualification!
    - 3. Don't be too confident, thinking you are alright in God's eyes, only to find yourself disqualified from the race!
    - 4. Keep a humble view of yourself: don't be thankless; don't grumble; flee immorality and idolatry (v. 14)!
- B. 1Cor. 10:13 (ESV), "*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*"
  - i. Paul did not want the Corinthians to become spiritually paranoid as they consider Israel's fall.
    - 1. For God promises to enable His people to overcome temptations that may come their way!
      - a. When Joseph was tempted by Potiphar's wife, he ran away (cf. Gen. 39; cf. 1Cor. 6:18 – flee sexual immorality)
    - 2. However: It is important to note that Israel tested God and were disciplined for it (vs. 9).
      - a. Therefore, we are not to put God to the test by deliberately placing ourselves in tempting situations!
      - b. Examples: going on the Internet as opposed to fleeing from it.
    - 3. What temptation was Satan placing in front of the Corinthians?
      - a. The temptation to commit idolatry!
      - b. Members who would go into these pagan temples to eat meats were placing themselves in temptation's way!
      - c. Eating meats is an amoral thing, but if it involves or leads to sin, flee from it! And that is why Paul says in the next verses...

- C. 1Cor. 10:14 (ESV), *“Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry”*
- i. Notice the use of the term “beloved” – Paul is showing his affection for his gospel children.
  - ii. Because some were going into these pagan temples to eat, Paul urged them to take the “escape route” provided by the Lord by fleeing from feasts that honor idols!
  - iii. Now Paul gives them greater insight as to why they are to flee by bringing up the Lord’s Supper...
- D. 1Cor. 10:15 (ESV), *“I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.”*
- i. Paul believed the Corinthians had the wisdom to understand what he was about to share with them:
    1. He tells them to make a judgment call in regards to the participation of the Lord’s Supper...
- E. 1Cor. 10:16-17 (ESV), *“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup>Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”*
- i. The cup of blessing is the cup by which we give thanks.
    1. The fruit of the vine represents the blood of Christ, of which we must be extremely grateful!
    2. When we partake of the cup, we are participating in the blood of Christ.
      - a. His blood redeems (Eph. 1:7), cleanses (1John 1:7), draws us to God (Eph. 2:13); propitiates (Romans 3:25), justifies (Romans 3:5) and sanctifies (Heb. 13:12).
      - b. As a result, Christians are totally set apart and devoted to the service of the Lord whose blood was shed for them.
      - c. Participating in the blood of Christ gives a vertical dimension to the Lord’s Supper: that is, the disciple and God.
  - ii. The bread is a participation in the body of Christ
    1. Here, Paul seems to use the term “body of Christ” to mean the Church as in the case of Ephesians 1:22-23.
    2. Therefore, creating a horizontal dimension to the Lord’s Supper: the disciple and his fellow worshippers, fellowshiping with the Lord.
    3. We, who are many, form one body; that is, we are of one society, mutual friends and members of the same Family, partaking of the one bread, which represents the body of our Lord (cf. 1Cor. 11:24).
  - iii. In idol temples, there is also a vertical-horizontal dimension going on: the pagan worshipper and his god; the pagan worshipper and his fellow-worshippers.
- F. 1Cor. 10:18 (ESV), *“Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?”*
- i. In Judaism, those who ate the sacrifices were in communion with God.
  - ii. Now Paul is going to establish the fact that eating meats sacrificed to idols in a pagan temple puts that person in communion with the evil spirits behind the idols.
- G. 1Cor. 10:19-20 (ESV), *“What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? <sup>20</sup>No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.”*
- i. Although an idol is nothing (cf. 1Cor. 8:4), idol worship boils down to demon worship!
- H. 1Cor. 10:21-22 (ESV), *“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. <sup>22</sup> Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?”*
- i. You cannot have communion with Christ and Satan!
  - ii. Don’t let Israel’s idolatry befall you!
  - iii. Do not test the Lord! We cannot withstand His anger!