

The Importance Of Faithfulness

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

- ▶ Many obey the gospel but fewer remain faithful. cf. Mt. 10:22; Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:8
- ▶ The context of the lesson explained.
 - The word “for” which introduces this chapter connects 9:27 with 10:1-13.
 - The example of Israel is given to show the possibility and consequences of unfaithfulness.

The Privileges Of Israel – Verses 1-4

1. God had delivered them from Egyptian bondage when he caused them to pass through the sea. cf. Ex. 14:30ff. They had been slaves of cruel taskmasters for a long time. cf. Gal. 3:17
2. God had permitted them to be baptized into Moses. At the Red Sea they were baptized into a spiritual union with him, and thus were constituted his disciples. cf. John 9:28
3. God had given them food and drink in their wilderness wanderings. The supernatural food was manna (Ex. 16), and more than once water was brought forth miraculously (Ex. 17; Num. 20)

God Has Abundantly Blessed His Children Today

1. He has delivered us from the bondage of sin and Satan. Rom. 6:17ff; Col. 1:13
2. He has permitted us to be baptized into Christ. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3ff
3. God has spiritually sustained us by Him who is the bread of life. John 6:48-51, and the water of life. cf. John 4:7ff; 7:37ff
4. He is leading us by His word as we journey to heaven.

The Unfaithfulness Of Israel – Verses 5-10

- ▶ Sin of lust. Verse 6 – Num. 11:4-35.
 - They tired of manna, desired meat and longed for Egypt.
 - Punished with a great plague. Verse 33
- ▶ Sin of Idolatry. Verse 7 – Ex. 32. Under the leadership of Aaron they built the golden calf and worshiped it.
 - 3,000 men were killed. Verse 28

The Unfaithfulness Of Israel – Verses 5-10

- ▶ Sin of fornication. Vs. 8 – Num. 25:1-9. Israel’s adultery with the women of Moab and the idolatry which followed.
 - 24,000 killed by a plague. Vs. 9
- ▶ Sin of tempting the Lord. Vs. 9 – Num. 21:4-9. Israel tried God’s patience at Mt Hor regarding their food and drink.
 - God sent fiery serpents to bite the people and much people died.

The Unfaithfulness Of Israel – Verses 5–10

- ▶ Sin of Murmuring. Vs. 10 – Num. 14:1–38
 - 40 years of wandering.
- ▶ See Num. 16:14ff
 - 14,700 died

- ▶ In spite of God's blessings, Christians often commit the same sins today.

1. Lust (evil desire) is worldliness ... apply to dancing, drinking, vulgarity, etc.
 - We remember our life in the world and desire to return. cf. James 4:1–4; 2 Tim. 4:10; Rom. 12:2
2. Idolatry is putting other things first. Apply to jobs, recreation, families, etc. cf. Mt. 6:33; 10:34–37; Col. 3:5

- ▶ In spite of God's blessings, Christians often commit the same sins today.

3. Fornication and adultery are too often found and tolerated in the church. cf. 1 Cor. 5:4–5, 9; Gal. 5:19
4. Children of God frequently tempt God today by being discontent with His dealings with us. cf. 1 Tim. 6:6–8; Heb. 13:5
5. The sin of murmuring is the expression of discontent. To grumble and complain is as sinful today as it was then ... "Count your many blessings."

Encouragement To Faithfulness Verses 11–13

- ▶ Warning against self-righteousness and self-confidence.
 1. We must "take heed" lest we fall. Israel did not take heed and she fell.
 2. The admonition is for self-examination regarding our faithfulness to duty. cf. 2 Cor. 13:5; Heb. 3:12; 4:1
 3. Too many are resting on: Baptism, Sunday AM attendance, God's mercy, satisfaction with the minimum requirements, and think we are bound for the promised land

Encouragement To Faithfulness Verses 11–13

- ▶ Faithfulness is possible for our temptations are capable of being overcome.
 - "common to man" KJV cf. Heb. 4:15–16

Encouragement To Faithfulness Verses 11–13

- ▶ Faithfulness is possible for our temptations are capable of being overcome.
- ▶ Our temptations are controlled by God. *"He will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able."*
 - a. God does not tempt us to sin, (James 1:13), but he does permit Satan to tempt us. Job 1:12
 - b. Good can come from temptation, for in resisting it, we come forth strengthened and purified. *Job 23:10 "But He knoweth the way that I take; When He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold"* cf. James 1:2–3

Encouragement To Faithfulness Verses 11-13

- ▶ Faithfulness is possible for our temptations are capable of being overcome.
- ▶ Our temptations always have a way of escape, God will provide it in some way, perhaps a reminder of God's goodness, a scripture, etc.

Conclusion:

- A. Faithfulness is necessary and it is possible.
- B. Let us not fall as Israel did.
- C. If Christ should come today, would he find you and me faithful and ready?