

## The Importance Of Faithfulness

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

## The Importance Of Faithfulness

- Many obey the gospel but fewer remain faithful. cf. Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:8
- **The context of the lesson explained.**
  - The word "for" which introduces this chapter and connects 1 Corinthians 9:27 with 10:1-13.
  - "FOR," (*gar*); a primary particle; properly, assigning a reason (used in argument, explanation, or intensification; often with other particles) (Strong)
  - 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. Exodus 14:30ff. They had been slaves of cruel taskmasters for a long time. cf. Galatians 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 (Exodus 16), and more than once water was brought forth miraculously. (Exodus 17; Numbers 20)

## God Has Abundantly Blessed His Children Today

1. He has delivered us from the bondage of sin and Satan. Romans 6:17ff; Colossians 1:13
2. He has permitted us to be baptized into Christ. Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 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 (cf. Romans 8:14) as we journey to heaven.

## The Unfaithfulness Of Israel – Verses 5-10

- Sin of lust. Verse 6 – Numbers 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 – Exodus 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. Verse 8 – Numbers 25:1-9. Israel's adultery with the women of Moab and the idolatry which followed.
  - 24,000 killed by a plague. Verse 9
- Sin of tempting the Lord. Verse 9 – Numbers 21:4-9. Israel tried God's patience at Mount Hor regarding their food and drink.
  - God sent fiery serpents to bite the people and many people died.

### The Unfaithfulness of Israel – Verses 5-10

- **Sin of Murmuring.** Verse 10 –  
Numbers 14:1-38.  
– 40 years of wandering.  
– See Numbers 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 Timothy 4:10; Romans 12:2
2. Idolatry is putting other things first. Apply to jobs, recreation, families, etc. cf. Matthew 6:33; 10:34; Colossians 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 Corinthians 5:4ff, 9; Galatians 5:19
4. Children of God frequently tempt God today by being discontent with His dealings with us. cf. 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 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.*" cf. Philippians 2:12ff

### 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 Corinthians 13:5; Hebrews 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

- **Our temptations are controlled by God.**  
1 Corinthians 10:13, "*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*" (cf. Hebrews 4:15-16 KJV)
  - 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

### 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?