

Sunday Morning Message

February 18, 2024

With God, You Can Handle Whatever Comes Your Way

Text – 1 Corinthians 10

Congregational Reading – 1 Corinthians 10:6 - 13

Introduction

Chapter Ten discusses Christian liberty and redevelops the topic of idolatry, which Paul also dealt with in chapter from nine. Paul will again conclude that Christians, as he did in the previous chapter, that Christians need to stay away from idolatry. Idolatry in Bible days meant worshipping other gods, but today it could mean putting anything between you and God. God wants us to put Him first and anything that we allow to come between us, and God is an idol. It could be a job, a hobby, a child, spouse, a boyfriend, or girlfriend.

The Bible commands us to, *"Abstain from all appearance of evil."* (1 Thessalonians 5:22) Here in 1 Corinthians 10, Paul declared that though all things are lawful, all things are not expedient or edifying or beneficial (v. 23). As Christians, we ought not to ask the question, "Is this acceptable?" but instead we ought to ask, "Will this glorify God?" or, "Will it be a blessing to others?"

Outline of Chapter

I. Types (vs. 1 – 6)

Paul will now use Israel as a type or an example of how a redeemed people could get themselves into trouble when they elevated their desires over the desire of God. Paul warns that God's people in Corinth, and God's people today, though saved, can miss the blessings of the Spirit-filled life, and can even invite the chastisement of God upon their lives.

A. The Cloud – Shekinah Glory of God (see also Exodus 13:21 – 22)

"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people." (Exodus 13:21-22)

This is the presence of God. Today, we have the indwelling Holy Spirit of God to direct, protect, and instruct us. The Shekinah glory is also a picture of God's grace.

1. He provided direction.
2. He provided protection.

B. The Sea – The Red Sea (Exodus 14)

A picture of water baptism, which comes after salvation (after deliverance from Egypt).

C. Moses – A picture of Christ

He delivered them out of Egypt. The people were baptized unto Moses in the Red Sea. We are all spiritually baptized unto the Lord Jesus when we are saved. We are baptized into His body.

D. Spiritual Meat – Christ - Manna (Exodus 16)

God began to provide food for them exactly one month after the Exodus. Christ is the “Bread of Life.” The manna is also a picture of the Word of God.

E. Spiritual Rock (Exodus 17; Numbers 20) – Christ

Water flowed from the Rock of Horeb. Moses got in trouble for smiting the Rock a second time. Christ, our Rock, was smitten the first time on the cross, but He will not be smitten again. Christ is the giver of the “water of life.”

F. Other Exodus Types (not mentioned in 1 Corinthians 10)

1. Egypt – the world
2. Pharaoh – Satan
3. The Passover – salvation - the blood typifying the precious blood of Christ
4. The Exodus – deliverance from the power of sin, the world, and Satan
5. The Wilderness wandering – The Christian life without the power and blessings of God on it. A life lived in the flesh.
6. Entering Canaan – the Spirit-filled life

II. Temptations (vs. 6 – 14)

God warned the Corinthians (and us) that we need to be very careful (and very humble - v. 12) that we are not guilty of the same sins that were exemplified in Israel as they wandered in the wilderness. God wants us to run from all temptation, but specifically from idolatry (v. 14 – also fornication 1 Corinthians 6:18; greed 1 Timothy 6:10 – 11; youthful lusts 2 Timothy 2:22).

"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." (1 Corinthians 6:18)

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." (1 Timothy 6:10-11)

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2)

A. Lust (v. 6; Numbers 11:4 – 6) – for the foods of Egypt.

"And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes." (Numbers 11:4-6)

B. Idolatry (v. 7; Exodus 32) – The Golden Calf

C. Fornication (v. 8; Numbers 25:1 – 9) - Whoredom with the daughters of Moab

D. Tempting God (v. 9; Numbers 21:4 – 9) - The people spoke against God and Moses

E. Murmuring (v. 10; Exodus 14:11; 15:24; 16:2; 17:3; Numbers 14:2)

"And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?" (Exodus 14:11)

"And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?" (Exodus 15:24)

"And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:" (Exodus 16:2)

"And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?" (Exodus 17:3)

"And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!" (Numbers 14:2)

"All murmuring has its root in unbelief and expresses itself as a denial of the goodness and mercy of God" (John Phillips).

III. Tables (vs. 15 – 22)

The conclusion Paul makes here is that when we partake of the Lord's supper, we are identifying with the Lord just as the priests did in the Old Testament. Now Paul warns the Corinthians to be very careful about consuming meat that was offered in sacrifice unto idols. If you partake of the Lord's Table, why would you partake with the devil as well? (1 Corinthians 6:15 – 20; 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 18)

"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto

the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:15-20)

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

A The Lord's Table (vs. 15 – 17)

B Israel's Table (v. 18)

C The Table of Devil's (vs. 19 – 22)

IV Practical Teaching (vs. 23 – 33)

A. The Exhortation (vs. 23 – 24; 31 – 33; 6:12)

Basically, Paul is telling the Corinthians that it was not all about them; it is all about God's glory and God's Kingdom. The children of Israel missed out on the Promised Land because they put their desires above God. The Spirit-filled life is a life lived for the Lord, and for others.

"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." (1 Corinthians 6:12)

Jesus

Others

You

B. The Examples (vs. 25 – 30)

1. The Shambles – meat market (vs. 25 & 26)
2. The Social Invitation (vs. 27 – 30)

Paul tells the Corinthians that it is OK to eat meat, but if given the knowledge that the meat in question was offered to idols, then it was wrong to eat it because it may send the wrong message

to the people who are observing you. Remember, men do look on the outward appearance because they cannot see your heart, but it is men that we are trying to reach with the gospel.

Conclusion

I would like to conclude with some practical thoughts regarding the verse that I believe to be a key passage from this chapter (vs. 11 – 14):

*"11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 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.** 14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."* (1 Corinthians 10:11-14)

This passage and the others that will give you with it have been swimming around in my head these last couple of weeks while we have faced some situations that were well beyond our ability to figure out on our own. There are many times that I begin to doubt that God is going to get me through to the other side of a trial, difficulty, or even a challenge. But he promises that He will as long as I am in the very center of the will of God, doing what He has called me to do.

The Protection of God from Overwhelming Difficulties (1 Corinthians 10:11 – 14)

Paul illustrated in vs. 6 – 10 various kinds of temptations that Israel faced as they wandered the wilderness. He stated that these temptations were examples to the people of God in Paul's today because these Corinthians would also face various kinds of temptations: some that were like what the Israelites face, but others that were unique. Yet, God promised in v. 13 that God would not allow them to be tempted, which in this case was speaking about and enticement to sin. Temptations in the Bible could also be speaking about trials and tribulations; difficulties and problems that people face in life. God also promises that He will not allow us to go through a difficulty or trial that is bigger than our ability to handle with His help.

"20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD." (1 Chronicles 28:20)

The Provision of Grace for Trials (2 Corinthians 12:7 – 9)

"7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)

Paul had a thorn in the flesh that he thought was bigger than he could handle, and he asked God to remove it, but God did not take it away. Instead, He promised Paul grace, and God assured him that God's grace was sufficient to handle any kind of thorn that might come his way. And the same is true for us.

The Provision of Resources to Meet Any Need within the Will of God (Philippians 4:15 – 19)

"15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:15-19)

God says that He will supply any needs that are related to serving Him.

The Provision of Wisdom for the Many Times You Are Clueless as to What You Should Do (James 1:2 – 8)

"2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. 5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." (James 1:2-8)