

1 CORINTHIANS (continued)

BACKGROUND: In chapter (8) Paul sets down the principle of **DEFERENCE...that is that we limit our liberty if it will cause a weaker brother to stumble...in chapter (9) he gives an example from his own life when he refused to take money from them and has supported himself by being a tent-maker...in chapter (10) he shows that privilege is not a guarantee against failure!**

The danger is not falling from salvation but of falling from holiness and from usefulness in your service...Paul uses an example of over-confidence from the nation of Israel: their privileges (vs.1-4); their abuses (vs.5-10); and the application of the principle (vs. 11-13)

(10) ISRAEL'S PAST PRIVILEGES: (vs.1-4): We must realize that the Word gives us blessings and **warnings...Paul would not do well in our "political correct society"**...Paul begins this chapter with the word "for" which refers back to the statement in (9:27) about his own fear of disqualification...he tells them that God provided Israel, after (400) years of captivity, with a way to escape...Israel was a corporate community to their own spiritual pilgrimage...because they all experienced a **"oneness" (all passed under the cloud, all passed through the sea, etc.)...therefore, in all of the circumstances, God took the initiative....He was their deliverer, guide and sustainer as follows:**

. **Exodus 13:21; 14:19** - the cloud showed them the way and protected them from danger, and the pillar of fire by night gave them light to travel

. **Exodus 14:19-31**- they had been brought through the Red Sea on dry ground and Pharaoh's army was destroyed...He kept His promise to deliver them from their bondage in Egypt...Paul identified with Moses as the Lord's appointed leader....

. **Exodus 16:11-15** - they had eaten manna together in the wilderness which God had provided for them..

. **Numbers 20:1-11** - they had been given water to drink by God when He enabled Moses to draw water from the "rock" (word is "petra" meaning big cliff and not "petros" meaning little rock (pre-existent Messiah)

1 CORINTHIANS (continued)

THEIR ABUSES (vs.5-10): Paul now outlines the (4) areas of abuse: **idolatry (v.7); sexual immorality (v.8); trying God (v.9) and complaining (v.10)...**

. **Exodus 32** – When Moses was on Mount Sinai, receiving the law, the people seduced Aaron into making a golden calf and worshipping it...they used their jewelry that had been received from the Egyptians...today, we can still make idols out of success, love, money, family, education and anything else that takes God's place in our hearts...that is idolatry!

. **Exodus 32:38; Num.25:1-9** – The words “stood up to play” is a word for sexual relations and some (3000) would be slain...and a second incident caused (24,000 to be slain)

. **Num.21** – the Israelites complained about the goodness of God and His purposes...they pushed their liberty to the limits and how much of the world they can enjoy and God sent fiery serpents among them and many died...

. **Numbers 16** – when Korah, Dathan and Abiram, led a grumbling revolt, judgment fell on many and they died....**murmuring is dissatisfaction with God's sovereign will for our lives and the lives of others...and it is a sin that He does not take lightly, even in view of His grace (Phil.2:14: do everything without complaining or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in this the universe as you hold out the Word of life)**

Murmuring is contagious, murmuring discourages others, and murmuring is a sin....

APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE (vs.11-13): After these warnings, Paul closes these verses with a message of encouragement and cheer...even though we are conscious of our weaknesses, Paul says that we need not fail...temptations (the word is testings) will confront us, but God can still provide a way to escape....we can help ourselves by not putting ourselves in positions of peril...we should, with courage, follow the paths **we know to be right.....**Paul encourages us by telling us that temptations will come, they are unique to all, and God will give us an escape (word is ekbasis...a way through a mountain pass)....

1 CORINTHIANS (continued)

APPLICATION (continued): Paul challenges us that these examples were written for us (v.6; v.11) who also live during the last days of history before the Lord comes...**TAKE HEED....Do not let over-confidence lead you into sin as you become less dependent upon God and His Word...when these troublesome times confront us...WE CAN RESIST THEM IN GOD'S POWER WHO IS FAITHFUL AND WHO IS ABLE TO SEE US THROUGH....**

DISCUSSION: Relate an experience when you know the Lord provided you with an escape....have you felt guilty of murmuring? Did you realize that the Lord is not pleased with you? What have you learned today that is positive about murmuring.....

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS: (vs.14-31): The bottom line is to FLEE IDOLATRY...returning to the nation of Israel....they thought they could have it both ways...you cannot mix your sacrifices with demons....question: are you trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy?

EVERYTHING IS PERMISSIBLE BUT NOT BENEFICIAL....EVERYTHING IS PERMISSIBLE BUT NOT CONSTRUCTIVE....think on that....most of us has faced that in our lifetime...we should not be thinking about ourselves, but others....after another example of eating meat given to idols, Paul make this powerful statement:

Whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do...do it all for the glory of God...do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God...

Follow my example, as I follow the example of CHRIST!

(this statement goes into Chapter 11)..

NEXT WEEK: CHAPTER 11

QUESTIONS: What is different about the subject of Chapter 11? How is it explained? What is the rebuke? What is the new problem? When we take communion, what are we proclaiming? What is the result of taking communion in an unworthy manner? **How would you feel about the last sentence?**

POINTS TO PONDER: **Death died when Christ arose!**