

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Lessons from the Grave

It was Patrick Henry who uttered the famous cry
Give me Liberty or give me death.

A) I think the Apostle Paul would have said -
Right on Patrick !

B) Paul was a man who understood - Liberty -
moved in Liberty - free in his walk

1) It was Paul who declared in chapter 6 *All things
are Lawful for me...profitable*

C) Paul was a man who enjoyed & understood his
liberty in the Lord. -

1) Paul also could say *Give me Liberty* -

D) I THINK Paul would have added a phrase -

1) Give me liberty but make sure it doesn't lead to
death.

Death of the People around me - who might
stumble because they see me exercising my
Liberty.

A) Death in my own life by being slowed down in
the race by things that are not good for me .

B) Death in a way that would hinder the work of
the gospel.

C) Spent the last few weeks - this conversation on
the subject of using our liberty the right way

CH. 8 Liberty amongst our brothers and sisters

A) Meat sacrificed to idols

B) Big idea: Love and Fellowship should
supersede my personal freedom and rights

C) 13 *Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble,
I will never again eat meat, lest I make my
brother stumble. (Violate their conscience)
offend*

Then last week we looked at exercising our
liberty with unbelievers

A) Big idea - Our mindset should be - we never
want our personal liberty to impede the work
of the gospel

B) Paul used himself as an example - He had the
right and liberty to be compensated in his
ministry

C) But he chose not to and worked outside of his
ministry -

1) because he knew some would be offended

D) So he forfeited his right or freedom for
compensation - made it harder on himself

1) So that the spreading of the gospel would not be
hindered in any way in Corinth

E) So in Ch. 9 Paul uses himself as a good
example of one who was rightly handling his
liberty

But here in Ch. 10 he uses the nation of Israel as
an example of those who didn't use their liberty
wisely

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware
that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed
through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the
cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food,
⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they
drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and
that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with most of them God
was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered
in the wilderness.

Israel had been in bondage for 400 yrs in Egypt

A) Then they were set free by the power of the
Lord

B) His plan was for Moses to lead them to the
promise land

C) Yet tragically they blew it & became
disqualified from entering into the Land of
Promise

1) because of their own stupidity & sin !

Now in Jesus we have been set free from the
bondage that we were in

A) But tragically some believers today (don't
experience the blessings of this abundant life

B) for the same reasons - *Stupidity & Sin!*

1) Paul says -we need to learn from their mistakes

Paul begins by getting them to think about Israel's deliverance from Egypt

So Paul begins V. 1,2 *Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,*

A)When Israel was released from Egypt - their 1st encounter was Red Sea /

B)that was their Baptism so to speak as they followed - Moses through the Red Sea.

C)Now Paul's focus here is not to center on the ceremony of Baptism /

1)but that of Spiritual identification

D)Call it THEIR Baptism *Unto Moses*)

And the Corinthians like us were identified w/ Christ in their Christian Baptism !

A)BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

B)BAPTISM SPEAKS of our old man being buried w/ Christ in death –

1)RISEN TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.

C)Paul's focus IDENTIFICATION *Them unto Moses /Us Into Jesus*

So Paul says remember how they were set free / Led through the Red Sea & followed under the Cloud

A)This idea of following under the cloud is a neat picture of the Christian experience too

B)Too often we picture this cloud off in the distance - *there it goes - lets back up move out.....*

C)But that is not an accurate picture at all - Actually - the cloud - was hovering over top of them. /

1)cloud day fire by night !

D)When the Cloud would move they would move

But the cloud not only served as a guide but also as a shelter

A)In that hot desert the cloud covered them from the hot sun.

B)Great illustration of what the Lord desires our life in Christ to be like.

1)That life of walking in the spirit - being led by the spirit

C)We are under Christ - He is the Head of the body

1)The Head is where the brain is - gives directions - body responds

D)Jesus our head -seeks to guide us and to direct us – As we abide in him

1)As we stay connected to him – IN TUNE

There are somethings in life that we need to pray and wait on the Lord – for direction

A)But there are other things – daily things – don't have that opportunity

B)The Lord doesn't want us to walk blindly – but he desires us to -be led by him-daily

C)The more we walk with him – seek him – the more in tune we get – sense – cloud is moving

1)The Lord is wanting me to go in this direction

D)Starts with a heart set and mindset- Lord I am willing to be led.

So first of all Paul mentions their spiritual identification – they were baptized into Moses

A)they were led through the wilderness

B)then he speaks of their Spiritual provision

V - 3 all ate the same spiritual food,4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

C)Rock is not Petros / but Petra huge Mt.

1)wasn't a rock that followed them but Christ was actually w/ them to Provide for them!

D)They drank all of them of that same spiritual rock

And that ROCK WAS Jesus WHO declared in John 7:37 *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;*

A) THIS IS ALSO THE LAST INVITATION FOUND IN THE BIBLE IN

Rev. 22:17 *17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

B) So Paul takes them back to their history where They had been Delivered from Bondage / fed & led

1) they miraculous water provided /

C) All the privileges you could imagine / Yet they Blew it big time & forfeited the Promised Land!

5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

A) Most of them is a major understatement -

B) of the 3 million who First came out of Egypt - only two went in Josh & Caleb

C) Wandered for 40 yrs – Kadesh Barnea – 11 day journey –

1) few months of Prep The Law / Tab

But because of their unbelief – the whole first generation – wandered – was lost

6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

A) All this happened to them their wanderings etc., not just as historical incidences

1) but as Practical illustrations for us !

B) Personal Application So that we might learn from their mistakes & avoid the things that they didn't !

C) What are we to avoid Paul list 5 things

1st thing we are to avoid & watch out for is that of lust !

A) Ref. Is to Num. 11 complaining about their food - tired of manna /

B) Manna hot cakes / banana bread / mannacotti *Give us meat they cried !*

C) Even though the manna was supernaturally sent everyday - they began to long for some meat –

1) they were unsatisfied w/ God's provision.

D) Do you ever feel like that / really unsatisfied w/ where the Lord has you

1) how he is providing for you !

That is a Dangerous place to be

A) Wanting something else or someone else (not satisfied w/ where the Lord has you)

B) That is the nature of LUST - always wanting SOMETHING ELSE .

C) So they were lusting after meat & God said OK we will give them meat !

Moses thought how? (Kill cattle - or go fishing)

A) Moses made the mistake that I often find myself making

B) he looked at what was available – thought only 2 alternatives – beef or fish

C) He saw only these 2 options but God had a totally different plan in mind!

Here is what happened the people looked & saw a cloud off in the distance / not a normal cloud /

A) A Cloud of Quail flying 2 cubits or about 3 ft. Wheel house is in the strike zone

B) Smack them – like Baseball game - / each man gathered 10 homers!

C) They ate so much the word says they had Quail coming out of their noses!

Check this out the Psalmist recounting this story said in Psalm 106:14

A) *Gave request but sent leanness to their souls !*

B) Heavy statement & vivid illustration of what lust does / doesn't satisfy and it destroys

C) Lust is like a fire the more you feed it the hotter it gets & the more it demands! - Never satisfied.

The 2nd thing Paul tells us to watch out for is Idolatry !

7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."

A) Ref. Here is to Ex. 32 Moses is up before the Lord getting the 10 commandments 40 days

B) People down below were wondering about their Pastor / why gone so long

1)what is he doing up there ?

C) So they turned to his Asst. Aaron (You become our Leader)

1)gave Aaron their gold & made a golden cow !

D)Quoting Exodus 32:6 Paul continues, **The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play.**

The eating and drinking refer to the excessive feasting that followed the sacrifices.

A)But the word Play is a euphemism for sexual relations.

B)They weren't playing tag - they were engaging in sexual immorality .

C)Moses hear commotion – War – no a party

1)Moses What are you doing

D)Aaron gives the excuse to beat all excuses

1)Aaron's response gold in the fire & *this golden calf came out ...take off our cloths & dance naked*"

E)So the idolatry led to sexual immorality which makes sense

1)sexual immorality – in and of itself is a form of idolatry – Worship of self-pleasure

3rd - area of sin we are to watch out for is sexual immorality - v.8

Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

A.) Ref. - here is to Numbers 25 when children of Israel committed harlotry w/ the daughters of Moab- 24,000 died because of their sin!

B.) Now this has caused some controversy! Paul says 23,000 in one day!

1)But Numbers 25 says 24,000 died- why different ?

C)Really simple - plague - 23,000 died in one day.

1)Some died next day or shortly there- after -for a total of 24,000

D)Point we need to catch is warning - avoid sexual immorality

³ For this is **the will of God**, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel {BODY} in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; {DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD } ⁶ that no one should take advantage of and defraud his **brother or sister** in this matter,

Sexual immorality is a form of idolatry that takes from others – defrauds them- take advantage of someone

because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

⁸ Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

3rd Avoid Sexual immorality

4th area - v.9 -nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

A)Testing the Lord- Ref - Numbers 21 - complaining about food and water

B)Remember Egypt - Back to world - melons, onions/ garlic and leaks

C)ENEMY - DISTORTED VIEW - SLAVES IN EGPYT

1)So the Lord sent serpents

Same today - people test the Lord by trying to live w/ one foot in both worlds!

⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. Galatians 6:7-8

The spirit is willing and the flesh is weak –

- A) Discipline the flesh - Reap. What we sow
Understand your flesh will prevail - why? Spirit will not force you to submit

5th is linked to that Complaining V.10 *nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.*

A) The Israelites were a complaining people -

B) the ref. Here is to what began in Numbers in Numbers 14 - & carried over into ch. 16

C) Ch. 14 / 12 Spies / grapes size of basketballs - land flowing w/ milk & honey - abundance / 1) PROBLEM (Giants in the Land)

D) Began to murmur & complain & threatened to kill - Moses & Aaron

E) That sentiment carried over into Numbers 16 – 1) Korah & his boys tried to come against Moses - RESULT 14,700 were destroyed

Murmuring is dissatisfaction w/ God's sovereign will for our lives and the lives of others

A) It is a sin He doesn't take lightly even in view of His grace!

B) Been said - complaining is language of hell - what doing
1.) Thanksgiving and praise is language of heaven

C) When People are complaining why isn't this happening –
1) they are challenging His wisdom, HIS grace, His goodness, His love,

D) His Righteousness

E) *complaining - dishonors our heavenly Father & contentment glorifies Him!*

SO 5 THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR -

A) Lust/ Idolatry / Sexual Immorality/ Tempting Christ / Complaining
v.11,12 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.
Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

A) Liberty can cause us to drop our guard –

B) To think that something is not a big deal when in reality it is a bigger deal that we think it is.

They were types, and according to Verse 12, they were targets. We are too. We are under attack. We are not living in a beautiful, pleasant world designed for our enjoyment, and the quicker we get rid of that idea the better. We are in a battlefield, under attack. We are running a race that must be won. We are fighting a battle with a clever and ruthless enemy, and we must never forget it, because his devices are clever, and his strategies are very subtle, and we can easily fall."

Ray Stedman

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

A) A Strength can be a double weakness – More vulnerable – we drop our guard

B) Two biggest areas of attack to be aware of
1) Where you know you are weak

C) Where you think you are strong
Understanding that Paul says in v. 13 *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

Life is full of temptations -3 Observations from V. 13

A) #1 There are no new temptations – common to man – others gone thru – others will in future

B) #2 God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.

1) Not a moment longer or a degree hotter than you can bear

C) Doesn't mean God will not give you more than you can handle - Always does that

1) Moses – Red sea / Joshua Jericho/ David Goliath

D) He is stronger – The Battle is his

E) This is regarding the trial – Not more than you are able

#3 He will always provide a way of escape

A) Sometimes the way of escape is to avoid the place of the temptation – Bar for an alcoholic

B) Others times – Escape out of it –

C) Sometimes – through it

He is the waymaker –

A) Trust him walk with him – He is going to see you through

B) YOU will make it to the other side