

1 Cor 10 v.1-12 Take Heed READ THRU

RECAP - last week we discussed running your race, being a competitor, contending earnestly for the faith. Paul's admonition to the church to run with certainty for the prize is part of the larger idea regarding the Christian's individual responsibility in regards to both the gospel and toward others. This is the vertical horizontal nature of our faith - love God, love people.

This week, dovetailing into the thought in chapter 9 v.27 - [1Co 9:27 NKJV]
27 But I discipline my body and bring [it] into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Paul gives an vivid example of how proximity to religion doesn't save us. And leaves us with the warning to take heed - to beware.

Matthew Henry's note on the matter was this: a preacher of salvation may yet miss it. He may show others the way to heaven, and never get thither himself...A holy fear of himself was necessary to preserve the fidelity of an apostle; and how much more necessary is it to our preservation? Note, Holy fear of ourselves, and not presumptuous confidence, is the best security against apostasy from God, and final rejection by him.

v.1 - Moreover — but wait, there's more... Paul's letters are not like the letters we write, they are long and meaty and packed with information and doctrine as he was led by the Holy Spirit to pen these notes. This letter in particular a response to trouble within the Corinthian church and addressing questions they had written to him inquiring about.

We said last week that verse 24 in chapter 9 is enough to instruct any reasonable person in the faith -

[1Co 9:24, 27 NKJV] 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain [it].

But there's more to it - partially because we are always looking for a loophole, partially because there exists a historical record of cataclysmic failure by those who have been accustomed to "religion" because we are so close to it day in and day out - there is a very real danger of complacency and crippling callousness.

Paul addresses this in v.1-5

our fathers - the nation of Israel following the Exodus from Egypt - they all saw and were partakers in great signs

incidentally - don't ever believe that quite attractive lie - if God would just show me a sign I would believe, as we will see these people were given the most blatant of signs - many times over. Paul recounts the beginning of this seemingly from Exodus 13/14.

1. under the cloud - [Exo 13:21-22 KJV] 21 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: 22 He took not

away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, [from] before the people.

But when the Egyptian Army began to pursue them:

The propensity for doubt rears its ugly head — [Exo 14:11 NKJV] 11 Then they said to Moses, "Because [there were] no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?"

2. passed through the sea - [Exo 14:21-22 NKJV] 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go [back] by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry [land], and the waters were divided. 22 So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry [ground], and the waters [were] a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

v.2 - baptized - immersed - overwhelmed - should have been changed

That should've done it huh? Those 2 great signs? Not so.

v.3 - all ate the same spiritual food - manna (what is it) - [Exo 16:2-4 NKJV] 2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat [and] when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with

hunger." 4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day...

v.4 - all drank the same spiritual drink - [Exo 17:1-3 NKJV] 1 but [there was] no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" 3 And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why [is] it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

We see very clearly the consistent nature of Israel - God's chosen people. He had shown them so much yet they were not moved to FAITH, for the most part.

Paul is also careful to point out that the rock from which God provided their water was a picture of Christ before His time. All scripture points to Jesus Christ.

[Jhn 4:13-14 NKJV] 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

The suffering of Christ is even represented to the people in the respect that the rock was struck by Moses - even as Christ our Rock was struck for our sakes.

So let's see - in a grand show of His providence and sovereignty Jehovah, the existing one, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had delivered over 600K Israelites from slavery from an organized and determined government.

He guided them by a pillar of fire at night, and pillar of cloud during the day, he provided a path of escape when they were pursued by the Egyptians through the Red Sea, he fought for them and destroyed the Egyptian Army in that very same sea, he provided food for them so they wouldn't starve, and he provided water for them so they wouldn't die of thirst - all with the intent to bring them safe and sound to their own special place.

BUT, their human nature was still very much intact. They did not come to fully trust in God's sovereignty and provisioning. They didn't fully believe the promises that He made to them (sound familiar) - to keep them in all their ways, to provide for them a land of their own.

v.5 - gives the bottom line on this kind of relationship - their bodies were scattered in the wilderness

They had seen so much, partaken of so many miracles - seen some signs. But their belief wasn't their - they doubted mightily to the extent that on the

threshold of entering into a new life in the promised land they turned back and God let them wander in the wilderness until they died.

2 more examples:

Jonah at Nineveh - they repent, then...they fall back into their old ways and are eventually destroyed (Nahum and Zephaniah both record prophecies against Nineveh).

Our Dad's saw Jonah - we're good.

Pharisees - same deal [Mat 15:7-8 NKJV] 7 "Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with [their] lips, But their heart is far from Me.

It's completely possible to be surrounded by a tremendous heritage of believers and fail to come to a saving belief in Jesus Christ. It happens all the time. That type of person is sometimes harder to get through to than one who has never been exposed to the gospel.

v.6 - So Paul says, take this into account, be warned.

v.7-10 Even as he listed several interactions with God that we would consider definitive - the cloud, the sea, manna, water from the rock - he gives Israel's response

lust - a huge problem and pitfall for Israel; idolatry - literally worshipping other gods; sexual immorality (tied to idolatry [Num 25:1-2 NKJV] the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. 2 They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.); tempting Christ - not taking God's commandments seriously and living in such a way that dared God to intervene; complaining - a heart of discontent.

v.11-12 - with such a tragic example of the failure, in fact death, of those whom God desired to fervently to save, we ought to pay attention to how we relate to God.

ends of the age have come - living in expectancy - this was the attitude of the early church. How much more is endurance needed if Christ tarries. [2Pe 3:4, 9 NKJV] 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of creation." ... 9 The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

If any man thinks he stands let him take heed lest he fall - this is a powerful reminder to the arrogant, complacent, lazy, counterfeit believer. Attendance won't save us! Being there won't save us! Simply showing up won't save us! Next thing we know we are wandering in a vast dry wilderness wondering how we wound up so empty.

Good news - Joshua and Caleb.