1 Corinthians Series

**The Church in Corinth**

August 6, 2023

**What Our Past Teaches Us**

(1 Corinthians 10:1-11)

I don’t want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses. All of them ate the same spiritual food, and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did, or worship idols as some of them did. As the Scriptures say, The people celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry. And we must not engage in sexual immorality as some of them did, causing 23,000 of them to die in one day. Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites. And don’t grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.

**Introduction**:

**Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.**

(George Santanya)

Our relationship with the past is an interesting study.

* Some of us have washed the past completely from our memory because it is so painful and we seldom think of events, people or experiences that are behind us.
* Others cannot seem to shake the past and they obsess about what they did, what happened and seem completed trapped in yesterday.

**THERE WAS A GENERATION BEFORE YOU…**

**(v.1)—I don’t want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago.**

And they had a testimony…**5 things** Paul said about them…

* All of them were led by the cloud that moved ahead of them
* All of them walked through the sea on dry ground
* All of them were baptized as followers of Moses
* All of them ate the same spiritual food (manna)
* All of the drank the same spiritual water (out of the rock)

**(v.5)…Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness**

This is the **warning** to our generation…

* Don’t crave evil things as they did
* Don’t worship idols as some of them did
* Don’t engage in sexual immorality as some of them did
* Don’t put Christ to the test as some of them did
* Don’t grumble as some of them did

**(v.10)…They were destroyed by the angel of death**

**(v.11)…These things were recorded in our history as examples, to warn us who live in the end of the age.**

What is the warning to the Corinthians…?

**You Are More Vulnerable Than You Think**

**(v.12-13)…If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.**

Paul’s use of the phrase “be careful” (**Blepo**) 7x in his letter to the Corinthians and in every use but one it is a **COMMAND** calling for diligent attention, and reminding the Corinthians of their need to depend on the Holy Spirit to obey.

***Be Careful***

**Some of the believers in Corinth had become quite secure in their Christian life** so much so that they were abusing their Christian liberties and were careless and reckless in their conduct.

* You are always most vulnerable when you are not paying attention…
* You are always vulnerable on the back side of great spiritual moments…

(Proverbs 16:18)

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

**Don’t Try To Play Games With God**

**(v. 21-22) You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and from the cup of demons, too. You cannot eat at the Lord’s Table and at the table of demons, too. What? Do we dare to rouse the Lord’s jealousy? Do you think we are stronger than he is?**

* Paul is referring to the born-again Christian **who knows what he is doing** when he drinks the cup that represents Christ's blood and when he eats the bread that represents the body of Christ on the cross.
* What is the “cup of demons”?
  + Paul’s reference here deals with the ceremonial worship of idol gods—“you can’t go and worship idol gods and then come and sit at the table of God”
* No one can worship both the true God and demons—you have to choose!
  + That’s way we say “I choose Jesus.”

(Galatians 6:7-8)

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

**Conclusion**:

The road to heaven forces you to make some choices and its only going to get harder—your faith is tested.

(Deuteronomy 8:2)

Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and **to find out whether or not you would obey his commands**.

Whatever you do do all to the glory of God (10:31)

God I’m a sinner

I’m sorry for my sins

I believe Jesus died for my sins

I believe Jesus will forgive me of my sins

I choose Jesus