

“LEARNING FROM THE PAST”

(1Corinthians 10:1-33)

January 15, 2017

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. ... Those who fail to learn from the mistakes of their predecessors are destined to repeat them. -George Santayana

Paul remembers some tragic failures by his people in the past and gives exhortations to the church to LEARN and AVOID those same mistakes.

I. The EXAMPLES:

1. The ADVANTAGES enjoyed by Israel:

☐ **Led by the cloud of God's GLORY.**

God led the people through the wilderness in two manifestations: a column of fire at night; a cloud by day of protection and COVERING.

☐ **Waters of the Red Sea PARTED for them.**

If God is for us, who can be AGAINST us?

☐ **Supernatural PROVISION of food and water.**

God always supplies our NEEDS when we trust him.

☐ **CHRIST was with them**

Long before his coming to earth as a man, Jesus was MINISTERING to God's people.

2. The APOSTASY committed by Israel:

Despite his loving care for them, the people:

☐ **Displeased God and many were KILLED:**

God sent a plague to kill the 10 discouraging spies and announced that none of the people 20 years or older would be allowed to enter the Promised Land. There are serious consequences to displeasing God.

☐ **Guilty of IDOLATRY & pagan revelry:**

It's amazing how often the Bible records ungratefulness in God's people. We ought to be always and eternally GRATEFUL.

II. The EXHORTATION:

1. The FAITHFULNESS of God:

Sometimes, we can become lackadaisical, believing our faith makes us **IMMUNE** to temptation, but Paul says that God gives:

☐ **No promise to shield us FROM temptation.**

Even Jesus was tempted. He fought Satan with **SCRITURE** and won. But, in his humanity, he was not immune to temptation, and neither are **WE**. However, God:

☐ **Does promise to see us THROUGH temptation.**

We are promised a way out, if we are willing to **LISTEN** to God's Word and **PRAY** for his deliverance.

2. The FELLOWSHIP with God:

If you are a Christian, Paul reminds you that you are in a:

☐ **DIVINE fellowship.**

This fellowship we especially see and feel during the Lord's Supper. There is a somewhat mysterious sense of the **PRESENCE** of Jesus as we honor what he has done for us. Paul warns that there is also:

☐ **DEVILISH fellowship.**

Are we really free from the temptations of **IDOLATRY**?

If anything besides God gets our best thoughts, feelings, energy and commitment, are we not just more **SOPHISTICATED** idolaters?

3. The FREEDOM we have in God:

☐ **What believers CAN do-**

Christ followers are free from restrictions and can eat or drink whatever they please. They are not bound by Jewish dietary laws.

☐ **What believers SHOULD do-**

-Put God's glory above **EVERY** other consideration.

-Consider **OTHERS** ahead of yourself. How much strife in the church and life overall would be eliminated if **EVERY** Christian lived by this principle?

-Always keep God's never-ending **PURPOSE** in front of us: **SALVATION**.

What has God taught you from your own past? How can you **BEST** use your freedom in Christ to serve him?