

1 CORINTHIANS – Chapter 10

Teacher: Jerry D. Sturgill, Flatwoods church of Christ, Sunday Bible Study, October 2011

I. ISRAEL, AN EXAMPLE TO WARN THE CORINTHIANS, vv. 1-13.

- A. Israel's blessings and failure, vv. 1-5.
 - 1. The Israelites were baptized (metaphorically) in the cloud and the sea, received blessings, and still many of them did not reach the goal.
- B. The sins of the Israelites are a warning to not follow their bad example, vv. 6-13.

II. CHRISTIANS MUSN'T PARTICIPATE IN IDOLATROUS WORSHIP, vv. 14-22.

- A. When Christians partake of the Lord's Supper, they are in fellowship (sharing) in the sacrificial death of Christ, vv. 14-16.
- B. By each partaking of a piece of the loaf, representing Christ's body, it signifies they are all bound in one spiritual body, united to Christ, and therefore each other, vs. 17.
- C. This principle of participation was even true under the Mosaic Law, vs. 18.
- D. Paul was not recognizing that an idol as a real entity, vs. 19.
- E. However, to participate in the idolatrous worship feast put them in fellowship with devils (demons – ASV), vs. 20.
- F. A Christian cannot be in harmony with both. Must make a choice, vv. 21-22.
Cf. Joshua 24:15; Matthew 6:24.

III. CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN SACRIFICED MEAT MIGHT BE EATEN, vv. 23-29a.

- A. Verse 23 – See 6:12.
- B. Each should be more concerned about the good of others rather than pursuing his own liberty, vs., 24. *Cf. Philippians 2:1-4.*
- C. Whatever is sold in the marketplace (in the shambles – KJV) may be eaten since it is not polluted and should not be a matter of conscience, vv. 25-26.
This is what Paul addressed in chapter 8.
- D. Should a pagan invite you to eat a common meal in his home, and you wish to go, there is no need to question, vs. 27.
- E. Verses 28-29a is addressing eating meat with a weak brother (chapter 8) in such a case the Christian should not eat.

IV. QUESTIONS THAT WOULD DOUBTLESS BE RAISED, vv. 29b-33.

- A. Paul is going to answer 2 questions in the verses that follow:
 - 1. For why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience? (*Why should my liberty be subject to another man's conscience?*)
 - 2. For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks? (*Since I have given thanks for the meat why am I evil spoken of? Cf. 1 Timothy 4:4.*)
- B. The answer to the 2 question: The Christian should honor God with all life's activities (vs. 31) and give no offence (occasions of stumbling – ASV) to others (vs. 32).
- C. The reason Paul gave up his liberties and his ultimate desire was to save others, vs. 33.
- D. Paul admonishes Christians to follow his example, as he follows Christ, 11:1.