

Look and Live

A Series on the Cross

April 29, 2012

PART III: THE N. T. APPLICATION OF THE TYPE (PAUL IN 1 Cor. 10)

A Warning from the Past

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

SEE 1 Corinthians 5:1-2

- Not every one attending the church is part of the Church!
- To help this Gentile congregation understand this, He will use a very Jewish illustration: The children of Israel in the wilderness (which we have been studying a portion in Numbers 21 and John 3).

SEE 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

QUOTE: The previous passage had made the point clear. The Christian believer is in a race for the incorruptible crown ([1 Cor. 9:24-27](#)). The crown of life is not given to a person on a *silver platter*. A person must *run* to win the race: run in discipline, denying himself and straining to control his life for Christ. If he does not so run, he will become a castaway (cp. [1 Cor. 9:27](#)). *P.O.S.B.*

I. The Privileges [Of the Children of Israel] (1 Cor. 10:1-4)

- Paul begins by pointing out blessings that were universally true for the Israelites in the wilderness.
- He is stressing the wonderful benefits.
- He stresses that everyone enjoyed these. (“all” used 5 times)
- Israel, blessed by God in every way, could feel secure.
- But his point is that these signs did not guarantee arrival in the Promised Land.

A. The Direction That Was Presented (1 Cor. 10:1; Ex. 13:21-22; Ps. 119:105, 130; 2 Pet. 1:19)

- Israel enjoyed the privilege of God's guidance.
- By day, a great cloud, appearing in a large pillar or column, guided them.
- Today, you may be in this meeting in a lost state.
- You may not have the Spirit of God living in you.
- You may not know Christ.
- You may have little desire for the Word of God.
- Yet even you have the benefit of God's guidance.
- For there are many here who do know Christ, who do read His Word, who pour over the pages of God's Word often, and who are led by the Spirit.
- And as they teach, and preach and testify, you benefit from their guidance for life.

B. The Deliverance That Was Produced (cf., Ex. 14; Lam. 3:22)

- Every Sunday School child knows of the parting of the Red Sea.
- Surely, God has spared many of us in His grace and mercy.
- Even the lost among us have enjoyed the forbearance of God!
- No doubt the sinner's life has oft been spared to grant an opportunity for repentance!
- Certainly, we who believe have enjoyed God's deliverances.

C. The Declaration That Was Pictured (1 Cor. 10:2)

- The children of Israel were identified with God's crowd when they were covered by the cloud of God's presence.
- They were identified with Moses when they chose to step down off the shore of the Red Sea and to do what the old spiritual song says, "Step into the water."

- Today, as a Baptist, you have been immersed in water publicly as a picture, a testimony that you have identified yourself with Christ.
- But many who have been baptized in the water have never been baptized into Christ.

D. The Diet That Was Provided (1 Cor. 10:3-4a; cf., Ex. 16 and 17; Num. 20)

- The dietary provision was so nutritious and so faithfully provided that the Bible makes an interesting statement as to its effectiveness.
- “Their feet did not swell.”
- Even under the stressful conditions in the wilderness, with the heat and constant marching, their feet did not swell.
- Dieticians tell us that one mark of mal-nutrition is swelling in the feet.
- God was meeting their daily needs.

E. The Deity That Was Present (1 Cor. 10:4)

- Christ is said to have been present with them!
- Therefore we see the source of all of the blessings we have mentioned. (*P.O.S.B.*)

II. The Perception (1 Cor. 10:5a; Zech. 1:2; Ps. 19:14; Heb. 11:5; 13:16)

- With all of the benefits that they enjoyed from God ...
- Yet they did not please God!
- You see, our faith is not about whether we are pleased with God and His benefits,
- But whether God is pleased with us!

III. The Punishment (1 Cor. 10:5b; Num. 14:28-35)

- There is a warning here for us.
- He who looks into the pages of God's Word to read this story comes away with his heart saddened.
- Two to three million left Egypt. (cf., Ex. 12:27; Num. 1:46)

QUOTE: How many remained faithful to God through the wilderness journey? How many actually turned away from the fleshly desires aroused by the delicious foods, drinks, and bodily stimulations of Egypt and the world? How many actually disciplined their bodies, subjected their desires, and kept their eyes and hearts upon the Promised Land? How many were faithful and steadfast, unmovable and always abounding in the work of the Lord until they reached the Promised Land? Remember over two million began the journey: How many entered the Promised Land? Only two! Caleb and Joshua. Caleb and Joshua alone remained faithful to God. Only two did not sin and displease God. Everyone else, over two to three million, perished in the wilderness. They were overthrown (*katastronnumi*), that is, scattered as corpses all over the wilderness. Why? Because they did not please God. *P.O.S.B.*