

## **1 Corinthians 10 New American Standard Bible**

### Avoid Israel's Mistakes

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud and they all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup> and they all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup> and they all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased; for their dead bodies were spread out in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they indeed craved them. <sup>7</sup> Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play." <sup>8</sup> Nor are we to commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. <sup>9</sup> Nor are we to put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and were killed by the snakes. <sup>10</sup> Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroyer.

<sup>11</sup> Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> Therefore let the one who thinks he stands watch out that he does not fall. <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except something common to mankind; and God is faithful, so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup> I speak as to wise people; you then, judge what I say. <sup>16</sup> Is the cup of blessing which we bless not a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is the bread which we break not a sharing in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> Since there is one loaf, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one loaf.

<sup>18</sup> Look at the people of Israel; are those who eat the sacrifices not partners in the altar? <sup>19</sup> What do I mean then? That food sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? <sup>20</sup> No, but I say that things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become partners with demons. <sup>21</sup> You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. <sup>22</sup> Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we?

<sup>23</sup> All things are permitted, but not all things are of benefit. All things are permitted, but not all things build people up. <sup>24</sup> No one is to seek his own advantage, but rather that of his neighbor. <sup>25</sup> Eat anything that is sold in the meat market without asking questions, for the sake of conscience; <sup>26</sup> for the earth is the Lord's, and all it contains. <sup>27</sup> If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions, for the sake of conscience.

<sup>28</sup> But if anyone says to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat it, for the sake of that one who informed you and for the sake of conscience; <sup>29</sup> Now by "conscience" I do not mean your own, but the other person's; for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience?

<sup>30</sup> If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered about that for which I give thanks?

<sup>31</sup> Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all things for the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Do not offend Jews or Greeks, or the church of God; <sup>33</sup> just as I also please everyone in all things, not seeking my own benefit but the benefit of the many, so that they may be saved.

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

### **Pauls Observations and insights**

1. What is it to be unaware?
2. In this instance Paul wants this church to know and remember how things were in Israel's history.
3. He declares their forefathers were under a cloud, they went through the sea and were connected to God through what God had provided for them in the law and sacrifices.
4. Paul declares the rock they drank from was Christ, Messiah.
5. Despite God's provision he was not pleased with them because they had let Him down.
6. Paul explains this provision of salvation was to resolve the problem of evil working within them, in the same way that it works in us.
7. The craving of evil things is an indication that, human beings have moved away from a holy God who created them good.
8. To be an idolater is to give yourself to the worship of anything else other than God.
9. To worship is to intently focus, so this could also include the worship of fear.
10. To act in an immoral way is to do in the flesh anything that is bad and looks wrong – twenty three thousand of the Israelites did and they all died in one day.
11. To put God to the test is to question His love and the promises He has made.
12. Grumblers have set up there heart in the camp of their enemy, they have empowered their enemy to destroy them.
13. Paul wants this church to learn from the Israelites mistakes so that they can avoid doing the same.
14. Pride will make you blind to what is obvious to everyone else.
15. Temptation is not sin, sin happens when you give way to temptation.
16. As a Christian we have the promises that God will rescue us at the point of giving way but only if we look to Him at this time.
17. To endure the temptation is to trust in God's grace to go through a trial – Psalm 23.
18. As the body of Christ on earth, we are to not get distracted by anything but to keep our eyes on Jesus, only then will all things be well with us.
19. The bread and wine are symbols of our drawing together to be as one with Him. Christian unity can be a great testimony to the world.
20. The fact that someone worships an idol doesn't make that idol anything, but what it does do is curse the one who is worshipping, it will bind them to that idol and its' so called power and truth.
21. Paul makes it very clear what is behind all sacrifices to idols, they are demon spirits that fell when angels were cast out of heaven before the world was inhabited by man.

22. So to give yourself in spirit to an idol's truth, is to be one with that idol and to curse your life.
23. You can't give yourself to Jesus Christ and to idols, they are demon spirit, they are the power of the air, God will not share your heart with evil spirits, he casts them out so they can't be in.
24. James tells us God jealously desires the spirit He has put within us.
25. Paul says just because the law permits something it doesn't mean that you have to do that something.
26. God's plan for man is the well-being of all and He does that by using all who come to Him, so that He may bless the world through those who come.
27. When eating meat, if you have no knowledge of whether or not it has been sacrificed to an idol, you can just eat and enjoy, but if you know it has been sacrificed to an idol, don't eat it, or you will feel yourself with guilt because you are acting against your conscience.
28. If you set a bad example you become a sign post to point people to a place called 'no-where good.'
29. Paul asks 'why is my freedom to act judged by another man's conscience?' He is saying allow me to live in my freedom even as I allow you to live behind the line of the freedom you know.
30. When we give thanks, we sanctifying whatever we give thanks for.
31. To live for the glory of God is to let your life be a reflective life of Jesus Christ.
32. The reason why we do what is right is that right lives in us to do it.
33. We are not in pursuit of right to be put right with God, but out of the right we have in us, we do the right thing.