

## Christ, Our Rock

**“And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.” (1 Corinthians 10:4)**

For our Lord’s Table meditation this evening, we want to think upon Christ as our Rock. This verse occurs in 1 Corinthians chapter 10 in this context: **“<sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup> And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup> And did all eat the same spiritual meat; <sup>4</sup> And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup> Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.”**

So in the midst of a discussion of people who enjoyed remarkable works of God, Paul gave them wisdom and warnings. The wisdom came from Old Testament examples. We learn a great deal from the successes and failures of “the great cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1) who have gone on before. But their failures also serve as a warning to us today. The Spirit of God gave us these examples (10:6) to guide us away from evil craving and idolatry (10:7).

One of the remarkable works of God was the miraculous water from the Rock for the Israelites in the wilderness. At Massah/Meribah (Exodus 17:1-7), and at Kadesh (Numbers 20), the Lord miraculously brought forth water from the rock. These two miracles occurred at the beginning of their journey and near the end of their forty years of wandering. In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul applied this spiritual lesson: the water from the rock indicated the presence of Christ with His people, Israel. In our service this evening, we will examine the phrase, “Christ our Rock.”

### Christ, Our Rock: Our Only Source of Living Water

We find these words in Deuteronomy 8:15, **“Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where *there was* no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;”** The Lord places His people into situations where they must trust Him alone. One Jewish commentator’s opinion grew up into a Jewish legend. The legend was that the rock of Exodus 17:1-7 rolled along, following God’s people through the wilderness until Numbers 20. Paul used this old Jewish legend to proclaim that Christ, the Messiah, the Spiritual Rock, really did follow His people in the wilderness.

Of course, there is great danger associated with trying to find life-giving water for our souls elsewhere. Jeremiah 2:12-13 puts this succinctly: **“<sup>12</sup> Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. <sup>13</sup> For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”** There is no substitute for Christ, Our Rock, the fountain of living waters. Since the dawn of time, mankind has attempted to make his own substitutions: his righteousness for God’s righteousness, his psychological study instead of the the Word which is a discerner of heart’s intents. But Christ is our only source of living water. We would say with Isaiah 55:1, **“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters . . .”** In the last chapter of Scripture (Revelation 22:17), the Lord issued the invitation for the final time: **“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”**

## **Christ, Our Rock: Our Stability**

Not only is the Lord our source of life-giving water, He is also our stability. We see this in expressions such as that which is found in Deuteronomy 32:4, **“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”** He is our source of strength. Psalm 19 is a marvelous source of strength and stability. It depicts the wonders of the natural revelation in this world, and the wonders of the special revelation in God’s Word. And in the last verse, the psalmist makes this personal application: **“<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my Redeemer.”** The word translated “strength” in this verse is the same word translated elsewhere as “Rock.” Our Rock is the standard and the stability for every generation. The prayer of Psalm 19:14 helps us to appeal to our Rock and Redeemer as we examine our hearts this evening.

## **Christ, Our Rock: Our Salvation**

A moment ago, we considered Deuteronomy 32:4. Now let’s return to Deuteronomy to see the third characteristic of the Rock. Consider verses 15-18: **“<sup>15</sup> But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation. <sup>16</sup> They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. <sup>17</sup> They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not. <sup>18</sup> Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.”** The Rock (v.18) had formed Israel as a nation. He was “the Rock of his salvation” (v.15). But the tragedy was that His people “lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.” Being unmindful of the Rock that begat them, they forgot the God who formed them. May God grant that we would not repeat this mistake of the past, for Christ is our Rock.

As we come to our Lord’s table this evening, we want to glorify Jesus Christ

- Our Rock: our Source of Life-giving water
- Our Rock: our Stability in every generation
- Our Rock: our Salvation

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