

Morning Worship
September 25, 2011
“Sad, Bad (but hopefully helpful) Examples ...”
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” George Santayana

God through the Apostle Paul calls us not only to remember the past but to see it (History) as God’s teaching tool for us –

¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

These things happened to them, FOR US! Their wandering through the wilderness is an example for us on how NOT TO travel through this sin-filled world on our trip to Heaven --- this world is NOT our home, let us not be tripped up by it!

I. The privileges of the fathers –

^{NKJ} **1 Corinthians 10:1** Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

1. They had wonderful privileges –

A. The cloud was God’s visible glory that led them through the wilderness –

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. (Exodus 13:21 NKJ)

B. The “sea” refers to the Red Sea parted for them by God’s power, this is called a baptism because it displayed their Covenant relationship with God –

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! (Exodus 15:1 NKJ)

C. Spiritual food – manna, bread from Heaven

D. They drank of the spiritual drink, that came from the Rock, which “was Christ” –

⁶ "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. (Exodus 17:6 NKJ)

2. They had multiple privileges, those mentioned here are mere samples ...

3. The privileges of Israel in the wilderness are spoken of here, because Paul is telling the Corinthians, the Israelites had PRIVILEGES TOO -

II. The point of Paul’s pointing out these privileges, most of them failed in spite of these privileges –

⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

¹³ "So the LORD'S anger was aroused against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the LORD was gone. (Num 32:13 NKJ)

⁴ And this *is* the reason why Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt *who were* males, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt.

⁵ For all the people who came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised.

⁶ For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people *who were* men of war, who came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD-- to whom the LORD swore that He would not show them the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, "a land flowing with milk and honey." (Jos 5:4-6 NKJ)

III. What God would have us learn from these –

1. Do not be ruled by your lusts –

⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

2. *Flee idolatry / false images of God –*

⁷ And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."

And he received *the gold* from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"⁵ So when Aaron saw *it*, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow *is* a feast to the LORD."⁶ Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. (Exodus 32:4-6 NKJ)

3. *Flee sexual immorality –*

⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab.² They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. (Numbers 25:1-2 NKJ)

And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand. (Numbers 25:9 NKJ) *Twenty-three thousand died in "one day" a thousand more died after!*

4. *Do not tempt Christ, nor complain –*

⁹ nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." (Numbers 21:5 NKJ)

So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. (Numbers 21:6 NKJ)

⁴¹ On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the LORD." (Num 16:41 NKJ)

Now those who died in the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the Korah incident. (Numbers 16:49 NKJ)

5. *Realize these things happened to them as examples to us, meaning do not be like them or you may not make it to Heaven*

¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

IV. *The grand conclusion –*

1. *Walk humbly through this wilderness –*

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (1 Cor. 10:12)

He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8 NKJ)

2. *Realize the truth about every trial or temptation you may endure –*

A. *None are unique -*

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; (1 Cor. 10:13)

B. *God knows you and is sovereign in regard to the trials and temptations He allows in your life –*

• *He is sovereign in regard to their degree and number - but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,*

• *He is sovereign in His provision of a way of relief or escape - but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*