

1 CORINTHIANS 10 – DO ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

V1-2 – Much of what Paul will be referencing can be found in Exodus Ch. 13-17

- V1 – “all under the cloud,” Exodus 13:17-19a, 20-22; “and all passed through the sea.” Exodus 14:21-22
- V2 - Baptized in Moses: when baptism is used in relation to a person, “it means to baptize or be baptized into a profession of faith or allegiance with someone, and to be in sincere obedience to him. Here it’s, ‘in Moses’, in Gal 3:27 it’s, ‘into Christ.’
- V3 – “ate the same spiritual food.” Refers to Manna - Exodus 16:4, 11-15 (and possibly the quail). The provision of food and drink were a tangible representation of God's provision and grace.
- V4 - Water from the rock – Exodus 17:5-6 (see also Num. 20:8-11)
 - “rock that followed them” - a reference to the Aggadah, which is legendary (not-canon) material about the law.
 - “Rock was Christ” – John 4:14
- V5 – “God was not pleased, they were overthrown.” Numbers 14:20-23. “Of all the Israelites over 20 years of age, only Joshua and Caleb were permitted to enter the promised land.” Psalm 78:22, 32

V6-11 - Here, he gives four examples from Israel’s history of the wrath and justice of God.

- V7 – Idolatry – the people rose to play – Exodus 32:1-6 – the golden calf. *Play* refers to idolatrous practices.
- V8 – sexual immortality – 23,000 slayed. God’s judgment on Israelite men who engaged in sexual relations with Midianite female religious prostitutes and joined them in Baal worship - Numbers 25:1-9
- V9 – Testing Christ - That is say, they willfully acted against his commands and push their limitations with God and his patience with their sin – in a way, to see whether or not God will really judge them. In response, God “destroyed by serpents” – Numbers 21:4-9 – The bronze serpent
- V10 – Grumbling - “destroyed by the destroyer.” Often the term destroyer is associated with the angel of the Lord (Exod 12:23; 2 Sam 24:16).

10:6, 11-13

- Even though Israel had extraordinary advantages that might have led them to suppose their status with God was secure, ‘the majority of them’ met with God’s disapproval and died as a result.¹⁷ Why the disapproval? Psalm 78:22, 32
- V12 - in the midst of our total rebellion and rejection, there is the gospel. **Psalm 78:32-29 – He atoned for their iniquity**
- V13 – “trials and temptations always challenge us on whether we are going to continue to do God’s will or not.”¹⁸ In all the examples above, the Israelites had every opportunity to not sin against God. Where do temptations come from anyway? James 1:2-5, 12-17 – temptation comes from within. “salvation does not render one invulnerable to falling.” 2 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 4:15

Let’s take another look at those examples Paul gave:

- **V7 – Idolatry** - When God delays, are we willing to wait on him? Or will we abandon him for what’s fast and easy? Something with lacks substance and truth, but is a quick fix.
- **V8 – Sexual immortality** – To what extent are we willing to pursue pleasure at the cost of holiness and obedience? Will you resist or dive head in first, hoping on future grace in an attempt to make your soul feel better for what you know is wrong?
- **V9 – Testing Christ** - When God isn’t moving on your timeline, but gives you just enough to get by day by day, will we be grateful and humble or filled with self-entitlement and impatience?
- **V10 – Grumbling** - When things don’t go the way we think they should be going, or we grow jealous of what God has given others, will we be humble and thankful for having enough or let our envy destroy and poison the relationships around us?

V16-22 – Paul uses communion and sacrifices at the altar to bring to mind the power of participating in different ordinances. Paul is saying to them, when you eat at the table of God or of an idol, you are doing more than eating food, you giving your allegiance over to that entity. Whether to God or to demons. V21-22 – You cannot participate with God and things in total opposition to God and think there is no contradiction to you actions and beliefs.