

The Necessity of Faithfulness

1 Corinthians 10:1-12

The Necessity of faithfulness

- False doctrine challenges our convictions
- “All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolent acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer; and all the sins he may commit from idolatry to murder will

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“not make his soul in any more danger. The justification of the human soul is through the atonement of Christ and not through the efforts of man. The way a man lives has nothing to do with the salvation of his soul.”

Sam Morris – Baptist preacher,
First Baptist Church, Stanford, TX.

Background on the Law

- Obedience is necessary – Deuteronomy 5:1-15, 28-33; 6:10-15; 7:12-16; 10:12-13
 - Blessings and curses pronounced –
 - a) Blessings – Deuteronomy 7:12-16; 28:1-14
 - b) Curses – Deuteronomy 8:11-20; 28:15-35
- Conclusion? God expected Israel to obey; faithfulness was necessary to receive blessings

God's Provisions

God provided (Verses 1-4)

- Deliverance (Exodus 14:30)
- Spiritual leadership – “baptized unto Moses ...”
- Necessities of life – Water (Exodus 17:1ff); Manna (Exodus 16)
- Led them to the promised land
- In spite of all He provided, Israel became unfaithful.

Israel's Disobedience

- Verse 6 – Lust (Numbers 11:4-15; Psalms 106:12-14)
They lusted after that which used to be, instead of being content with God's provisions.
- Lusted – (Strong) A primitive root; to wish for: - to covet, (greatly) desire, be desirous, long, lust.
- Punishment – They would have so much they would loath it – Numbers 11:16-20.
- God did not tolerate lust among His people!

Israel's Disobedience

- Verse 7 – Idolatry – (Exodus 32:1-6) The Golden Calf
- Verse 20 – Punishment specified. They drank water with powder in it, powder made from ground gold!
- God was very displeased – Verses 9-10
- Israel was nearly subject to destruction due to their error.

Israel's Disobedience

- Verse 8 – Fornication (Numbers 25:1-9)
- A plague was released among the people
- The result was loss of life in great numbers. According to Paul 23,000 fell in one day!
- God does not tolerate fornication. Unfaithfulness was punished severely.

Israel's Disobedience

- Verse 9 – Tried the Lord (Numbers 21:1-9) Israel questioned God and His provisions for them.
- Not a new problem among them (Exodus 17:1-2)
- Punishment – Release of fiery serpents. Many died. Only those who looked to the brass serpent lived.
- Verse 10 – Murmuring (Numbers 16:41-50)
- A plague was released among the people
- This time 14,700 people died.
- God does not appreciate murmuring.

Paul's Conclusion

- Verses 11-12 – Paul wrote to remind them of these incidents. They stand as an example and warning to the church at Corinth.
- Romans 15:4, *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope.”* ASV
- An admonition for us – 2 Corinthians 13:5; Hebrews 3:12, 4:1

More Admonition

- Galatians 5:16-21; James 2:19-27; 1 Peter 4:1-6; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-9
- Revelation 2:10, *“Fear not the things which thou art about to suffer; behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.”* ASV

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Will God count us as faithful?