

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

Paul’s Outline of Israel (1 Corinthians 10)

- Vs 1-5 God provided many things for His children.
 - Deliverance (Ex. 14:30)
 - Spiritual leadership (Ex. 3-4)
 - Necessities of life – Water, manna
 - Led them to the promised land
- In spite of all He provided, Israel became unfaithful.

Israel’s Unfaithful Actions

- Vs 6 – Lust (Num. 11:4ff) They lusted after that which used to be, instead of being content with God’s provisions.
- Punishment – They would have so much they would loath it – Num. 11:16-20.
- God did not tolerate lust among His people!

Israel's Unfaithful Actions

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

Israel's Unfaithful Actions

- Vs 8 **Fornication** (Num. 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 Unfaithful Actions

- Vs 9 **Tried the Lord** (Num. 21:1-9) Israel questions God and His provisions for them.
- Not a new problem among them (Ex. 17:1-2)
- Punishment – Release of fiery serpents. Many died. Only those who looked to the brass serpent lived.

Israel's Unfaithful Actions

- Vs 10 **Murmuring** (Num. 16:41-50)
- A Plague was released among the people
- This time 14,700 people died.
- God does not appreciate murmuring.
- Conclusion – God does not tolerate sin; unfaithfulness receives due reward.

Paul's Conclusion

- Vs 11-12 – Paul wrote to remind them of these incidents. They stand as an example and warning to the church at Corinth.
- Rom. 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 Cor. 13:5; Heb. 3:12, 4:1

More Admonition

- Gal. 5:16-21; James 1:19-27; 1 Pet. 4:1-6; 2 Thess. 1:3-9
- Rev. 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 shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou **faithful** unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.”* ASV

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Can God count us as faithful?