

Learn From the Past

I Corinthians 10:1-22

7/29/01

Intro

- Pray for the Africa team
- Pastor Steve already there

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The church in Corinth had asked Paul about the rules regarding meat sacrificed to idols. They wanted the whole thing laid out in rules so they could follow it without using their own judgment. But Paul is using it to teach them about freedom.

If anyone knew about freedom it was Paul. Today, as was true then, there is much confusion about freedom.

We, especially here in America, value our freedom. ***But by this we mean our personal independence.***

Illus- There is a book by Robertson McQuilkin called A Promise Kept. He writes about caring for his wife who has Alzheimer's. He mentions other young couples he knows where one or the other will say, "This relationship doesn't work for ***me*** anymore, I'm leaving." ***They don't understand freedom, he says.***

They think they are free, but what they are showing is that they are actually just slaves to their selfishness.

Gal 5:3-18 *It was for freedom that Christ set us free.*

Let's learn from the past.

Last week Paul used himself to illustrate the points he was making and now, in this chapter, he uses Israel as an illustration.

I. Israel, too, was set free.

Vs 1

A. They were led by the Lord into freedom.

- Under the cloud and through the sea.
- They had spiritual food and spiritual drink.
- The spiritual Rock which followed them was Christ.

Vs 5

B. Nevertheless, with most of them, God was not pleased.

- The only two that truly pleasing to God were Joshua and Caleb who truly believed God at His promises.

II. Let's learn from what they did not understand.

A. We should not crave evil things as they did.

Vs 6

- They became tired of what God had provided and wanted to indulge the flesh.

Illus- They remembered the garlic, onions and leeks from Egypt and wanted to go back. They wanted meat.

- The only problem is they forgot that they were slaves in Egypt.

Illus- Some people will say, "Remember the old frat days? Weren't they great?" Truthfully, no they weren't.

B. And do not be idolaters.

- An idol is something that people use to represent God.
- The problem is that the thing can't represent all of God.

Illus- Like the golden calf.

Only Jesus is the perfect representative of God.

C. Nor let us act immorally.

- And 23,000 died in **one day**.
- This was when Balaam gave the cleaver advise to Israel's enemy.

D. And let's not test the Lord by grumbling and complaining.

- Today we say, "Look at who I'm married to," or some other complaint about our situation.
- But when we complain we complain against Christ.

Illus- Caleb understood the power of trials. When Joshua was giving out land he offered Caleb something easy. "No," he said, "give me the land of the Anakites (the giants) I will drive them out.."

Illus- The leader if the Philippines when her husband died, was asked if she was afraid of death threats. "I eat death threats for breakfast."

III. Christ has given us the power to truly be free.

A. Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

- Some think that in their freedom they can flirt with the world. "I can handle it."

See II Peter 2:18-22

B. But God had made a way of escape from temptation.

C. We are one with Christ and each other.

Conclusion

There is only one true freedom. When we are free in the Spirit to be who called us to be.