

Warning against setting your heart on sin

We have dealt with freedom and love and also freedom to give up our rights for the sake of others. Paul ended his defense of his apostleship in chapter 9: 27 with “No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

Galatians 5: 13 “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather serve one another in love.”

Romans 6: 1 – 2 “What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?”

1 Corinthians 10: 1 – 13

1) A call not to be ignorant (1 – 5)

- ⌘ We ought not be ignorant of God's dealings with His people in history.
- ⌘ This could even mean God's dealings with us in the past
- ⌘ We need to learn from past failings – others and our own.
- ⌘ Ignorance due to a hardening of the heart (Ephesians 4; 18 “They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts)
- ⌘ We cannot claim ignorance for breaking the law. If we drive over the speed limit we get fined even if we claim we didn't know what the speed limit was in the area.
- ⌘ We might have an appearance of being a Christian – even a dynamic Christian – but if we live in on going disobedience/sin to God all our religious activity means nothing to God.
- ⌘ Hence Paul writes to inform the Corinthian Christians of what God did in the past as examples to them – and us now.
- ⌘ What should we not be ignorant of?
 - That the Israelites were under the cloud i.e. Under God's provision and guidance.
 - They passed through the sea i.e. They were symbolically delivered from sin, the world and self into God's purposes
 - This resembles baptism – for the Israelites it was baptism into Moses (the law). For the Christian it is baptism into Christ (grace and truth)
 - They ate the same spiritual food – manna – Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” John 6: 48
 - They drank same spiritual drink from the same spiritual rock – that rock was Christ.
 - God was not pleased with most of them and their bodies were scattered in the desert.
- ⌘ We should not be ignorant of the fact that we share the same spiritual experiences and the what happened to them could easily happen to us. We should not think that we have a higher privilege than them that we can sin as much and get away with it so that grace may increase

2) The examples of God's dealings with the Israelites (6 – 10)

- ⌘ The reason Paul gives these examples is to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.
- ⌘ He is showing them what it means to fear God.
- ⌘ Proverbs 8: 13 “To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behaviour and perverse speech.”
- ⌘ The examples he gives:
 - Do not be idolaters as some of them were
 - We should not commit sexual immorality as some of them did.
 - We should not test the Lord as some of them did – how far you go in defying His requirements
 - Do not grumble as some of them did
- ⌘ We need to understand that sin has consequences – The wages of sin is death (Romans 6: 23)
- ⌘ Hebrews 10: 26 – 29 “If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the

knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

3) A warning to be careful to resist temptation (11 – 13)

- ⌘ Paul reiterates that these things happened as warnings for us.
- ⌘ If they are warnings for us it is because we all have the ability to fall in the same way.
- ⌘ Some of us might think that we are standing firm. We are confident that we will never fall. We are confident that we know the Bible well enough not to fall. We are confident in our relationship with God in Jesus. We are confident that we have the strength and resolve to face anything that comes our way.
- ⌘ It is to us who think like this that Paul writes that we should be careful that we don't fall.
- ⌘ Temptation creeps in when we least expect it and if we are over self confident we are very susceptible to falling.
- ⌘ Temptation comes when we are weak and vulnerable – as it did with Jesus in the wilderness.
- ⌘ Temptation is Not sin
- ⌘ We must not think that we are alone in the temptations that we face – young and old alike. For no temptation has seized you except what is common to man . We all face the same temptations that the Israelites faced
- ⌘ But God is faithful
 - He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear
 - When you are tempted he will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
- ⌘ James 4: 6 “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”