

Sunday, 04 May 2008
1 Corinthians 10:1-14

1Co 10:1-14 I want you to remember, my friends, what happened to our ancestors who followed Moses. They were all under the protection of the cloud, and all passed safely through the Red Sea. In the cloud and in the sea they were all baptized as followers of Moses. All ate the same spiritual bread and drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from the spiritual rock that went with them; and that rock was Christ himself. But even then God was not pleased with most of them, and so their dead bodies were scattered over the desert. Now, all of this is an example for us, to warn us not to desire evil things, as they did, nor to worship idols, as some of them did. As the scripture says, "The people sat down to a feast which turned into an orgy of drinking and sex." We must not be guilty of sexual immorality, as some of them were---and in one day twenty-three thousand of them fell dead. We must not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did---and they were killed by snakes. We must not complain, as some of them did---and they were destroyed by the Angel of Death. **All these things happened to them as examples for others, and they were written down as a warning for us. For we live at a time when the end is about to come. If you think you are standing firm you had better be careful that you do not fall.** Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out. So then, my dear friends, keep away from the worship of idols.

“So let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall !” v12 (*Modern King James*)

This week, the message from the Word of God is a warning. It is there to encourage us to think about our lives and measure them against God's will as a test to ensure that we are still on the right track. But what is the warning all about? This was written to warn the people about following idols and the desires of the flesh, thinking that there will be no consequence to these actions. It warns us not to take the Spiritual high ground and then think that nothing will happen to us, because we are "okay in our relationship with God" These people thought that the body was for pleasure and, as they no longer lived under the law, they could do what ever they wanted. This scripture is a warning that this perception is not true. God is not pleased with this behavior. We are to ensure that we follow His commandments, and not alter them to suit ourselves. Just because they interpreted the Bible to suit their needs and immoral ways, it did not mean that the message they believed was true.

So, what are these idols in your life? What is more important to you than God? Could it possibly be a sexual affair as mentioned in this scripture or lust that has become the lord and master of your life, causing you to sin and yearn for what is wrong? Is it maybe the quest for power and riches that has side-tracked you so that the time you have for God is less and less? Is it gambling, or "the horses" that is taking up your time and your money? Is the time you spend in front of the television or the computer more than the time you are willing to give to the Lord, and getting closer to Him? Are your body and your health more important, causing you to spend hours, either in the gym, or else worrying about your health, instead of using your situation to His glory? Is it your struggle to survive and find self-worth that is consuming your time, rather than being a humble servant of the Lord, simply trusting in Him to provide?

Be warned, as this scripture shows us because, of these people falling into sexual immorality and idolatry, we read: "*and in one day twenty-three thousand of them fell dead*"

So my brothers and sisters, "*If you think you are standing firm you had better be careful that you do not fall*" This implies that you may die without God, because you never stopped to look at this warning.... "So let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall..."

* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. [david@davidniebuhr.com](mailto:david@ davidniebuhr.com)

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