

Communion with Satan

1 Corinthians 10:1 – 22



~ How do you fight Satan? Do you fortify your position and make a stand against the devil and his demons? Is your attitude “*onward Christian soldier*” with no retreat and no surrender? In this leg of our Spiritual Safari, we’ll examine the proper, correct and complete response to these questions from the Word of God. In our last several reports, we have been considering Christian liberty; and this report will bring yet another aspect of liberty; this time in an illustration that involves the nation Israel. In our last report, the apostle Paul proclaimed he did not want to be disapproved at the judgment seat of Christ. That’s why Paul did all of his writing and teaching; because he wanted to receive a *FIRST-PLACE* reward in Heaven. Apparently, second place wasn’t good enough for him....

¹ Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

² And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

³ And did all eat the same spiritual meat, which was manna;

⁴ And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

~ Here we go again with Paul calling people ignorant! When Paul says he wouldn’t have them ignorant, you can just write it down that the brethren were totally and completely ignorant. See, the church in Corinth was largely Gentile; they didn’t know the Mosaic Law — and they didn’t have a Bible.

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Today, we think a Jewish Christian is unusual; but, in the day in which we are studying, a Gentile Christian was the strange one. The “*fathers*” in verse one are all Israelites – and Paul happened to be one of them.

This section of Scripture reveals how far away from God we can get and still be a believer. It also reveals what a wonderful liberty the Israelite’s really had. Remember, when they crossed the Red Sea, the Mosaic Law had not been given. That led to them abusing their liberty in an atrocious way. Privilege is never an assurance against ultimate failure. Many rich men’s sons, businessmen, politicians, celebrities and others have to learn this lesson the hard way; and that learning curve usually destroys them in the process.

Israel had the direct physical leading of the Shekinah Glory; and all Jews went through the Red Sea. Verse two means they were “*identified*” with Moses. The word “*baptized*” can mean many things. In the Greek Classical Lexicon, there are more than twenty definitions for “*baptismo*.” The word has never been translated; it was *transliterated*. Most people today erroneously and ignorantly have it narrowed down to just one meaning. In our primary Christian definition, it encompasses our identification with Christ. We’re buried with Him in baptism by the Holy Spirit. When that happens, we are identified with Christ and placed in the church body of believers.

Now, Moses didn’t have a baptismal service there on the shore of the Red Sea that day. The record says they “*went over dry shod*” – which means the bottoms of their feet didn’t even get damp as they crossed. In fact, the only ones who ended up in the water were the Egyptians! The Egyptians were soaked through and through. So, we can know very definitely we are not talking about water baptism here. We can also know this does *NOT* speak of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, either; because it says they were “*baptized unto Moses*.”

In Hebrews, we’re told the nation Israel crossed the Red Sea by faith. The Egyptians drowned trying to do the same thing. However, Israel didn’t cross

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the sea in *THEIR* faith — because they didn't have any! No, friends, they only crossed the Red Sea because of the faith of Moses! If you read the account correctly, you will discover they all wanted to go back to Egypt; and they actually blamed Moses for bringing them out there into the wilderness to die. They accused Moses of working for Pharaoh in what would have been the first holocaust. It was Moses who smote the Red Sea with his rod and caused the waters to open. It was Moses who led them across and, when they reached the other side, they "*sang the song of Moses.*" That was quite a song, too, by the way.

Alright, they are now identified with Moses; and that is a picture of our salvation. Christ went through the waters of death, and we are brought through those waters by His resurrection. Today, we are identified with a living Savior; and that's the way the baptism of the Holy Spirit saves us. Only when we accept, and trust Christ, can we be placed into the body of believers. The ritual of water baptism is merely an outward demonstration of our inward faith. True and saving baptism is of the Holy Spirit; and that is very, very important to learn and understand....

⁶ Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

⁷ Neither be ye idolaters, as were most of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

⁸ Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

⁹ Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

¹⁰ Neither murmur ye, as many of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

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11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the age are come.

12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

15 I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.

~ So, in this most searching section of Scripture, Paul presents precisely how the Corinthians were abusing the liberty they enjoyed in Christ. The application is available to us today because it happened to Israel as an example. That means we need to pay serious attention to what is being said in this part of the Word of God, friends. These people lusted after evil things.

Numbers 11: ⁴ *And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?* ⁵ *We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:* ⁶ *But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes ~*

Their desires were leeks, onions and garlic; I don't think they would have made very good travel companions to talk to as you walked along the path. Most so-called Christians today have serious spiritual halitosis, too, by the way. They didn't care for the manna – the things of Christ; no, they “lusted” after evil things. That means they desired these things that were really only condiments and spices; and none of the things they desired have any nutritional value — except fish. This marks the beginning of the

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defection of these people. Desire always leads to sin. That's how the trouble began in the Garden of Eden. Eve saw that the tree was good for food, and the tree was to be *DESIRED* to make one wise.

Desire for things of the world are *ALWAYS* outside of the will of God. Interestingly, man cannot define "*desire*" – it's a word that the psychologist cannot even provide a straight answer as to what it really is. Now, I know the dictionary definition – but I find that unsuitable. You can talk about inhibition, prohibition, want, aspiration, fancy, inclination, impulse, yearning and wishing – but that just doesn't quite capture the meaning of "*desire*" – if you ask me. Here, all we can really say is that it's a wanting outside of God's will for our lives. Obviously, it wasn't the will of God for Israel to have the things of Egypt when they left Egypt.

The implication of verse seven is that the Corinthian church was steeped in idolatry; and idolatry is *ANYTHING* that takes the place of God. Most Christians somehow don't realize covetousness is idolatry; and there's a lot of it around today. Verse eight reveals they were living in open sin. Remember, the mixed multitude had to be told to look to the brazen serpent Moses made in order to survive the fiery serpents. This is all an illustration of people who want those things that are outside of the will of God for their life. God *ALWAYS* has something good for His people; but His people *CONSTANTLY* desire something beyond the plan and purpose of God for their lives.

The lesson we should derive from this is that our desire should be confined to the realm and will of God as He reveals His plan and purpose to us in His Word. That's extremely important; because I don't care who we are, how spiritual we are, how much we study the Bible or how much stuff we do in the name of Christian service – we could fall today – make no mistake about that. Actually, it would be very easy for any of us to blunder, stumble, and fall, *unless* we stay in the direct will of God; and act so that we are not quenching the Holy Spirit. Again, I cannot stress how critical this is to learn and understand.

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Many believe no one has ever endured the same level of temptation they have suffered personally. We live in a victim society. Well, God says you've never had a temptation that others haven't had. Either way, we can thank God He is faithful to always make a way of escape for us. Sometimes, the best way to escape temptation is to run as fast as we can from the devil. I don't know why so many people want to fight the devil when it's a losing battle – every time. That's one reason we have so many defeated Christians running around.

The super-duper saints are fighting Satan one day and totally deflated and crushed the next. Many of us are like a little girl who fell out of bed and started crying. Her mother asked her, "... *what happened?*" The little girl replied, "... *I think I stayed too close to the place I got in!*" That's exactly how Christians fall today. They don't get far from the place in the Word of God where they got in. They usually start out well, but they don't go on with God in His will....

¹⁶ The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

¹⁷ For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

¹⁸ Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?

¹⁹ What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?

²⁰ But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

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21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's Table, and of the table of devils.

22 Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than God?

~ So, our Spiritual Safari concludes this leg of our expedition with an example of the Lord's Supper as it pertains to Christian liberty. The idol itself is nothing; but behind idolatry is demonism. Paul recognized that; and was acutely aware of it. Eating meats offered to idols was a liberty they enjoyed — but eating with Gentiles that offered it to the devil was sinful. So, Christian liberty just isn't as clear cut and simple as it might seem. It takes a conscious effort from discernment in the Word of God to understand our freedoms in the Lord Jesus Christ; particularly in how those things affect fellow believers. If you haven't read all of our previous reports in Corinthians, I suggest you go back and start at report number one; it will serve you very well to do so ~

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