**"THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS"**

**Chapter Ten**

**OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER**

1) To realize the possibility of apostasy

2) To appreciate the help of God in times of temptation

3) To understand the importance of properly applying the principle of

 expediency

**SUMMARY**

In this chapter Paul brings to a conclusion his discussion concerning

things offered to idols. Reminding them about the example of Israel's

apostasy and the danger of their own, he commands them to "flee

idolatry" (**1-14**). He describes the communal implications of religious

feasts and warns against provoking the Lord to jealousy by having

fellowship with demons (**15-22**). This is probably a rebuke to the sort

of practice alluded to in chapter 8, verse 10, where some at the church

in Corinth thought nothing of eating sacrificial meat even in an idol's

temple! He closes by giving specific instructions concerning meat that

was later sold in the market place, or offered at the dinner of an

unbeliever to which they might be invited; that they not be concerned

unless someone specifically associates it with having been offered to

an idol, and then to refrain out of consideration for the other's

conscience (**23-30**). An overriding principle? Do all to the glory of

God, and provide no occasion for others to stumble (**31-32**). In other

words, imitate Paul, who sought to save others just as Christ did

(**33-11:1**).

**OUTLINE**

Scripture Reading…1 Cor. 10:12…**12Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.**

Prayer

Song…Count your blessings.

Introduction to message….Many Christians think that they are standing so tall and righteous before the Lord to the extent that they feel falling from grace is virtually impossible for them.

But I need to remind you….THINK Again!!!

Some feel that God has blessed them so abundantly that God would never allow them to fall!

In the Bible in The Gospel of Luke..

**I. EXAMPLES OF ISRAEL'S APOSTASY (1-14)** 10 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;2And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;3And did all eat the same spiritual meat;4And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.5But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.6Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.7Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.8Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.9Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.10Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.11Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.**12Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.**13There 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.14Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.15I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.

 **A. APOSTASY IN SPITE OF BLESSINGS (1-5)**

 1. Blessings received in the crossing of the Red Sea (**1-2**)

a. Delivered by the hand of God

b. Protected by the hand of God

c. Covered by the hand of God

d. Baptized under water by God

e. Freed from Captivity by the hand of God.

 2. Blessings received as they sojourned in the wilderness (**3-4**)

a. Peace and Safety!

b. Shelter and Clothing!

c. Family increase

d. Manna from heaven..which contained all the necessary ingred. To sustain life.

e. Free water of Life quenched all kinds of thirst !!!

 3. Still, with most of them God was not pleased, and they died in

 the wilderness (**5**)

 **B. THE EXAMPLE OF ISRAEL SHOULD SERVE TO WARN CHRISTIANS (6-14)**

 1. Their example of apostasy to warn us (**6**)

 a. Not to become idolaters (**7**) (**what can become and Idol?)**

 b. Not to commit sexual immorality (**8)(Do Christians Commit This?)**

 c. Not to tempt Christ (**9)(is it Possible for us to Tempt Christ?**)

 d. Not to murmur (**10)( Do we Murmur at God?)**

 2. Their history recorded to admonish us (**11**)

 a. For we can just as easily fall (**12**)

 b. Though God is faithful to provide help in dealing with

 temptation (**13**)

 3. Therefore, flee from idolatry! (**14**)

**II. RELIGIOUS FEASTS AND THEIR COMMUNAL IMPLICATIONS (15-22)**

15I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.16The 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?17For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.18Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?19What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?20But 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.21Ye 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.22Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

 **A. THE EXAMPLE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AND THE SACRIFICES OF ISRAEL**

 **(15-18)**

1. Paul speaks as to those capable of making wise judgments (**15**)

Mostly the Priests and wise leaders!!!

 2. Partaking of the Lord's Supper is a communion of the Lord's

 body and blood (**16-17**)

 3. The priests of Israel who ate the sacrifices were sharing in

 the services offered on the altar (**18**)

 **B. APPLIED TO THINGS SACRIFICED TO IDOLS (19-22)**

 1. Not to say that an idol is anything, nor that which is offered

 to the idol (**19**)

 2. But those who offer the sacrifices do so to demons, not God;

 and Paul would not want them to have fellowship with demons

 (**20**)

 3. They cannot eat and drink at the Lord's table and then do the

 same at the tables of demons (**21**)

 4. **Such would provoke the Lord to jealousy (22)**

**III. CONCLUSION REGARDING THINGS SACRIFICED TO IDOLS (23-11:1)**

 **A. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS (23-30)**

 1. Seek for those things that are helpful, being considerate of

 the well-being of others (**23-24**)

 2. Concerning things sold in the market, eat without question

 (**25-26**)

 3. When you are invited to a dinner with an unbeliever (**27-30**)

 a. Eat what is set before you, asking no question for

 conscience's sake (**27**)

 b. But if someone should point out that the food had been

 offered to an idol, don't eat (**28-30**)

 1) For the sake of the one who pointed it out (**28a**)

 2) For the sake of another's conscience (**28b**)

 a) Lest your liberty be judged (condemned?) by the

 other's conscience (**29**)

 b) Lest you be evil spoken of concerning that for which

 you gave thanks (**30**)

 **B. GENERAL PRINCIPLES (31-11:1)**

 1. Whatever you do, do all to the glory to God (**31**)

 2. Give no offense to Jews, Greeks, or the church of God (**32**)

 3. Just as Paul sought to please others rather than himself, that

 others may be saved (**33**)

 4. Imitate him, as he imitated Christ (**11:1**)

**END CHAPTER 10**