

1 Corinthians 10 - The Imperishable Wreath

1Co 10:1-5 ESV **For I do not want you to be unaware**, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. 5 **Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.**

- Under the cloud (“Shekinah” the presence or the glory of God)
- Passed through the sea (a deliverance and a “baptism” of sorts)
- The cloud and the sea represented a “baptism” of sorts (spirit baptism, water baptism)
- Spiritual food (Jesus the true manna) spiritual drink (water from a rock) “If any man thirsts”
- NEVERTHELESS - God was NOT pleased, they were overthrown

What is the FOR there for? “FOR I do not want you to be unaware”

As we begin Chapter 10 - you can see that he is referencing statements that were made before hand...**1Co 10:1-33 ESV For I want you to know, brothers** - The **FOR** is pointing back to the statements at the end of chapter 9.

- 1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. **They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.** 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, **lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.**
 - Paul urges them to pursue that which has eternal value (perishable or imperishable)
 - But he also lays out the possibility of being or becoming “disqualified”

disqualified.

Disqualified = unapproved, that is, rejected; by implication worthless (literally or morally): - castaway, rejected, reprobate.

- Tit 1:15-16 ESV To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. 16 They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, **unfit** for any good work.
- 2Ti 3:8 ESV Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and **disqualified** regarding the faith.
- 2Co 13:5 ESV Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you **fail to meet the test!** [KJV reprobate]

So Paul links the possibility of being disqualified to what he is teaching them here...i.e. even though the LORD was among them and they experienced many blessings from the LORD, they were overthrown in the wilderness - BE CAREFUL THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN TO YOU

These are EXAMPLES for us

6 Now **these things took place as examples for us**, that **we might not desire evil** as they did.

7 Do not be **idolaters** as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." 8 We must not indulge in **sexual immorality** as some of them did, and

twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not **put Christ to the test**, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10 **nor grumble**, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11 ***Now these things happened to them as an example***, but ***they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come***.

THESE SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO US - THAT WE MIGHT NOT DESIRE EVIL AS THEY DID

- That we might not **desire evil** as they did
- Do not be **idolaters** as some of them were
- Do not engage in **sexual immorality** as some of them did
- Do not **put Christ to the test** as some of them did
- Do not **grumble** as some of them did

THEY HAPPENED AS AN EXAMPLE & WERE WRITTEN FOR OUR INSTRUCTION UPON WHOM THE END OF THE AGES HAS COME - THE END OF THE AGES BEGAN 2000 YEARS AGO

- Act 2:17 ESV "And **in the last days** it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;
- Heb 1:1-2 ESV Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 **but in these last days** he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Bottom Line Truths He is Teaching

1) Don't become self-confident in your ability to stand

- 12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

2) Every temptation you face is common to man

- 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.

3) God is faithful

- ***God is faithful***, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also **provide the way of escape**, that you may be **able to endure it**.
- a) **He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability**
- b) **He will provide a way of escape**
- c) **You will be able to endure it - and if we falter - He is faithful to forgive**
 - **He is Faithful to forgive when we confess** - 1Jn 1:9 ESV If we confess our sins, ***he is faithful*** and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Flee idolatry - see the "freedoms" you partake in for what they are - and do not provoke the LORD to jealousy

14 **Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry**. 15 I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of

Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because **there is one bread**, we who are many are **one body**, for **we all partake of the one bread**. 18 Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? 19 What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 **No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.** 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. 22 Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

- Even tho I am free and can eat anything
- Why would I knowingly partake in the cup of demons or the table of demons
- Why would I want to provoke the LORD to jealousy
- It is a message to NOT become cavalier in the freedoms that we allow or partake of

Are the freedoms I partake of “helpful”? Do they build up? - I am to pursue an imperishable wreath, but I am also to lead others there

23 "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. 24 Let no one seek his own good, **but the good of his neighbor.** 25 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. 26 For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." 27 If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. **28 But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice,"** then do not eat it, **for the sake of the one who informed you**, and for the sake of conscience-- 29 I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? 30 If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks? 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 **Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.**

- **Don't take a cavalier attitude toward your freedoms in Christ**
- **Is what I allow “helpful”? Does what I allow “build up?”**
- **Give no offense try to please everyone, not my own advantage, that they may be saved**
- **Instead realize that your actions can affect the eternal well-being of others**

SUMMARY

The chapter is an encouragement to seek ETERNAL rather than a TEMPORAL wreath (goal)

There is a concern regarding our pursuits in life, could lead us to be “disqualified”

God has given us every advantage to enable us to overcome evil - we must choose it

Do not take your freedoms in Christ with **indifference**, but realize that not every freedom is helpful, and not every freedom will build others up.

In your freedoms, do not participate in the cup of demons or the table of demons

Seek to live your life in such a way that you pursue the imperishable crown, and that you lead others to the same path...”that they might be saved”