

**July 27, 2025**

**God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing**

**The Book of 1 Corinthians – Part 9 Chapter 10**

**Lessons From the Past, Applications for the Present**

Today we continue on our multi-year journey through the New Testament where we are seeking to understand the historical, chronological and missiological of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Church so that we in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church can keep the 'CHURCH LIVE & GROWING'. As we have made our way through the Book of Acts we have stopped at various points to delve into other books of the New Testament that seem to have been written at that specific point in time. We just completed study of Acts 19 and it seems that at this point in the 30 plus year time span that the book of Acts covers, that Paul took the time to write to the Church in Corinth.

Paul **REMINDS** them of their **HIGH CALLING TO...**

1. Be Holy
2. Develop a Fellowship of Harmony & Love
3. Glorify God.
4. Have the Mind of Christ.
5. Be God's Sanctuary & Temple
6. Honor & Respect Faithful Spiritual Leaders
7. Live as Obedient 'Beloved Children' of our Heavenly Father.
8. Live Your Life With Integrity & Godliness.
9. Honor God in Your Relationships & Service
10. To Use Your Liberty In Christ in Loving Wisdom
11. To Make The Message of the Gospel a Priority Over Our Freedom and Rights.

**today in Chapter 10 we discover**

12. To Follow the Example of Christ in How We Treat Others

**In Chapter 10** Paul continues to build on his previous theme of responsible use of our Liberty in Christ that must be balanced with love and wisdom. Verses 32 & 33 in today's passage also ties with his priority message on the Gospel and salvation...

***<sup>32</sup> Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— <sup>33</sup> even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, SO THAT THEY MAY BE SAVED.***

Paul wants to hammer in the Corinthian Church's heads and hearts (and ours today as well) the need to live and act in a wise, loving and responsible manner so that our witness is not tarnished and we can be used as a tool to share the Good News Gospel so that others can be saved.

Let's look at Chapter 10 for some:

1. Lessons from the Past, &
2. Applications for the Present.

### **1. Lessons From the Past (vs. 1-11)**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-11...**<sup>1</sup> *For I do not want you to be unaware of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. <sup>2</sup> They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup> They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup> and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.*

*<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." <sup>8</sup> We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. <sup>9</sup> We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. <sup>10</sup> And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.*

Paul starts out by saying I don't want you to be "unaware" of their spiritual heritage and the great history of how God interacted with His people in the past. Some of us love history and others can just take or leave it. Being aware of our history and what has transpired in the past is vital. As American Philosopher George Santayana is quoted as saying in 1905 *"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it"*. Part of the problem, it seems, is that the new, immature believers in Corinth had not read and become familiar with all that had occurred in the Old Testament. Therefore, they did not have a rich heritage of wisdom and knowledge to look back upon and use as a source of decision making. BibleHub.com gives this insight, *"History is a great teacher, and 1 Corinthians 10 reminds us to heed its lessons. The Israelites' journey through the wilderness is a cautionary tale. As Paul*

*writes, "Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did" (1 Corinthians 10:6). By reflecting on their experiences, we can avoid repeating their mistakes and stay on the path of righteousness."* (BibleHub)

### **Let's review some History Lessons:**

1. Avoid Idolatry (10:7)
2. Flee from Immorality (10:8)
3. Trust in God's Provision (10:9)
4. Avoid Complaining (10:10)

Now let's put those History Lessons into practical applications for the present.

### **2. Applications for the Present. (vs. 12-32)**

*<sup>12</sup> So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup> I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. <sup>16</sup> Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf. <sup>18</sup> Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? <sup>19</sup> Do I mean then*

*that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?* <sup>20</sup> *No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.* <sup>21</sup> *You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.* <sup>22</sup> *Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?* <sup>23</sup> *"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive.* <sup>24</sup> *No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.* <sup>25</sup> *Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience,* <sup>26</sup> *for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."* <sup>27</sup> *If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience.* <sup>28</sup> *But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience.* <sup>29</sup> *I am referring to the other person's conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another's conscience?* <sup>30</sup> *If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?* <sup>31</sup> *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* <sup>32</sup> *Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—* <sup>33</sup> *even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.* *11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*

You have probably heard me say many times over the years that the Bible is more than a history book or a doctrines book. It is that, of course, but it is also a practical guide to everyday life in the present. We need to read the Bible to learn history but, we need to see what practical applications can be made to our lives.

### **A Few Applications From Theses Verses Include:**

#### **1. We Need to Stand Firm in Our Faith**

<sup>12</sup> *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!*

#### **2. We Need to Use Bible Knowledge to Deal with Current and Future Temptations**

<sup>13</sup> *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

Here are some indicators that you may be on the path to disqualification: <https://www.championscc.org/>

**Neglecting Spiritual Disciplines:** A decline in prayer, Bible reading, or worship can signal a drifting faith.

**Rationalizing Poor Choices:** Justifying actions, you know are not aligned with God's word can lead to deeper compromise.

**Feeling Disconnected:** A sense of distance from God may indicate that you are straying from His path.

We need to Develop an Intentional Strategy to Fight Sin and Temptations: (Adapted from <https://www.championscc.org/>)

**Prayer as a Lifeline:** Regular communication with God strengthens your resolve and provides clarity in moments of temptation.

**Accountability Partners:** Having someone to confide in can help you navigate challenging situations more effectively.

**Scripture Memorization:** Knowing God's word equips you with the truth to counter temptation.

**Run from Temptation:** If certain situations lead to sin, avoid them completely. Don't put yourself in compromising positions.

**Engage in Positive Activities:** Fill your time with pursuits that honor God, such as volunteering, studying scripture, or engaging in worship.

**Evaluate Relationships:** Are your friendships encouraging your faith or leading you toward compromise?

**Control Your Media Consumption:** What messages are you absorbing? Are they uplifting or detrimental?

**Reflect on Your Habits:** Regularly assess your routines to ensure they align with your spiritual goals.

**Regular Self-Assessment:** Consistently evaluate your spiritual health and make necessary adjustments before issues arise.

### 3. Practice Loving Liberty and Seek the Good of Others.

<sup>23</sup> *"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive.* <sup>24</sup> *No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.*

"Our actions should reflect love and consideration for others. By putting others first, we demonstrate Christ's love and build a stronger, more compassionate community". (BibleHub)

### 4. We Should Seek to Glorify God In Everything We Do.

<sup>31</sup> *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* <sup>32</sup> *Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—* <sup>33</sup> *even as I try to please everyone in every way.*

### 5. We Need to Make Salvation of Others a Priority of Our Ministry.

<sup>33</sup> *even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.*

### 6. We Should Follow the Example of Paul and Follow the Example of Christ.

*11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*  
By striving to live like Jesus, we not only grow in our faith but also inspire others to seek Him.

**Take Away:** We must commit to following the example of Jesus and live our lives and treat others with love, care and compassion so that we can share the Good News Story of the Gospel, with the end result of *Bringing Glory to God.*