

Lessons from History

Lesson 8

I Corinthians 10:1 - 33

Introduction

Previously, Paul rebuked them for their various sins and urged them not to use their freedom to the point of discouraging their brethren. Perhaps, though, he felt they were still puffed up and would not make the necessary changes, for in this chapter he calls upon examples from the Old Testament to admonish them. Note the emphasis in vs. 1-4 on all. All, he says, underwent the same experiences, yet God was displeased with most of them. He lists several sins that led to their downfall ending with the warning to take heed, if they thought that they stood.

He also warns them in this chapter that idolatry cannot be maintained while we serve God, for it provokes Him to jealousy. Finally, here he returns to the subject of meats sacrificed to idols and gives some practical advice.

Israelite Examples - 10:1-13

1. Five times Paul uses the word all in vs. 1-4. What did they all have in common?
2. What does it mean to say they were overthrown in the wilderness?
3. Beginning in vs. 6 and for five verses he mentions one sin per verse that they were to avoid. Try to find the historical event noted with each sin.
3. How are we to use these events?

What specific lesson was Paul teaching?

5. Be prepared to explain why vs. 13 is encouraging to you.

Flee Idolatry - 10:14-22

1. Where and with what other sin was the commandment flee used?
2. To what does bread and blood refer?
3. By Paul's warning what does it appear the Corinthians were trying to do? Why was this impossible?
4. Read Deuteronomy 32:21 and Hosea 8:11-13; 13:1-3.

Practical Advice - 10:23-33

1. Review chapter 8 for Paul's teaching on meats sacrificed to idols.
2. What should we seek?
3. Read I Timothy 4:3-5. What can we conclude about food?
4. Why should they not eat when they knew the meat was sacrificed to idols?
5. What is to be our overriding goal? What should we carefully avoid?