

**“FALL WITH MANY,  
OR STAND WITH THE FEW”**  
**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

## INTRODUCTION

Love imposes a higher standard of living for the Christian; so that we could help others grow. That means that our *own* liberties are secondary to *others* needs. Doing the bare minimum is not good enough. As Paul described at the end of **chapter 9**, our flesh just doesn't want to cooperate with the Spirit of God. (9:26-27). **Chapter 10** is really a continuation of the previous chapter. That's why it says *Moreover* in **verse 1**.

## FIVE SHARED BLESSINGS AND SINS

The Lord wants us to learn from the scriptural examples of the past. As we look at this chapter it points out 5 shared blessings and 5 shared sins. The blessings were: **1)** The leading of the cloud...all saw it! **Ex. 13:21-22.** **2)** All passed through the sea, **Ex 14:21-22,** **3)** All were baptized or immersed in the leadership of Moses, the anointed of God, **4)** All ate of the manna, **Ex. 16.** **5)** All drank water from the Rock, Jesus! **Ex. 17, 1 Corinthians 10:1-4.**

The contrast is that with most of them He was *not* pleased! The scripture points out 5 destructive sins in **v. 6-10.** **1)** The lust after evil things, **Numbers 11.** This was the passion for more or something else, not necessarily sexual lust. The complaints were about food, probably encouraged by the mixed multitude. God struck them because of this. **2)** Idols, **Exodus 32.** This is the classic case of golden calf worship. An idol is something that is more important to us than God. **3)** Sexual Immorality. In **Numbers 25** Balaam helped encourage fornication, which angered the Lord! Phineas was a standout for righteousness! Once physical fornication takes place, spiritual fornication is right behind it! **4)** Tempting the Lord. In **Numbers 21** the children of Israel were in the complaining mode about provisions. The Lord sent fiery serpents as a response. Don't wear out the patience of the Lord! **5)** Murmuring and complaining. In **Numbers 16** Korah and his sons felt envious of Moses and his position with God. The Lord opened up the earth and swallowed him and his followers up! Be content with your calling.

## EXAMPLES FOR OUR BENEFIT

It's always best to learn from the mistakes of others. Unfortunately, some people have to learn the hard way! All of Israel was saved from Egypt, and had God's benefits, however, *most* did not make it to the Promised Land because of their own sins and attitudes. This portion of the letter was meant to be a wake-up call for the church in Corinth and *any* carnal church who wants to live life in a selfish way.

## CONSIDER

The question would be, "*What can we do now?*" Here are some ways to keep from falling into a fleshy Corinthian lifestyle: **1)** Rather than live to please yourself, resolve to live to please God.**v.5.** **2)** Have a healthy fear of sin. Sin poisons our relationship with Jesus. When we give in to lust, we end up wanting more. Our flesh is never satisfied. **3)** God loves thankfulness, but hates complaining. The examples above show that clearly! **4)** Admit that we are capable of any of these sins, just like anybody else. There are no special cases. **v.12.** **5)** Remember that God is faithful. With any temptation, He makes a way of escape. **v.13.** Flee!

We have much to be thankful for. Glorify God and please Him! Let's all finish well!

*Do you see yourself in any of the examples listed above? What steps have you made to prevent yourself from being guilty of these sins?*

(All scripture quotations are NKJV).

## PRAY .....

- \* For the many that are sick in our body.
- \* For our Christmas outreach to the community.
- \* For our Christmas Presentation with the Calvary Chapel Choir on December 19<sup>th</sup>.