

correcting carnality

1 CORINTHIANS

Sermon Series Notes



"Overcoming Temptation" (I Corinthians 10:1-13)

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Intro: Paul concludes chapter 9 telling us how he disciplines his body so as not to be disqualified in his service for Christ and the gospel. He realized that anyone (including himself) could fail and end up out of the race

I. THE TEXT

II. LESSONS IN THE TEXT

A. A History Lesson (vv.1-6)

* Despite the tremendous privileges Israel had and the great deliverance God provided for them, most of them perished in the desert.

* Why did God lead them through the desert?
- See Deut.8:2-3

* The difference between testing and temptation (James 1:13-14).

* Hell's three plays of enticement (I John 2:15-17)

* Note: Not only do we all have these examples that we can learn from, but some of us have people we personally know that have had the same spiritual privileges as us, yet have perished in the desert (time of testing).

* Luke 8: 13 Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

* This history is recorded to help us not lust after evil things as they did. Lust of the flesh is the natural inclination of sinful man. It is a longing for things outside the will of God.

* Adam & Eve & the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan enticed Eve, but it was the sinful desire in Eve's heart that led her astray.

* We're like the person in the horror flick that goes up in the attic to check out the noise they heard. I want to yell - "Stay out of there you dummy!"

* Note: If you desire something outside the will of God, and you want it bad enough, God may give it to you. (Balaam's reckless path; see Psalm 106:13-15; Rom.1:24, 26, 28).

B. Four Areas Of Failure (vv.6-10)

1. Idolatry

* Setting anything or anyone above God

* See Ex.32:1-8; How quickly we can turn away!

* Note: It was an idol of gold (See Col.3:5)

* Achan (Joshua 6:17a, 19; 7:1, 21; 8:2); Gehazi (II Kings 5:16, 20ff); Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5); Matt.23:16-17; Luke 16:14; Luke 8:14; I Tim.6:10; Heb.13:5.

* Prov.3:9; Gen.14:20; 28:22; Heb.7:5, 9; I Chron.29:14b; Deut.8:18.

* One of the worst things that could happen to some of us is a large financial blessing.

* Luke 8: 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

2. Sexual immorality

* Numbers 22-25

* Rev.2: 14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.

3. Testing the Lord

* Repeated rebellion (Numbers 21:4-9)

* Prov.29:1 A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed--without remedy.

* Only those who looked to the bronze snake on the pole would be healed of the deadly bite.

* John 3: 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,
15 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

4. Grumbling

* Prov.6:16-19; Jude 6

* Numbers 14:2, 37; 16:41-49; 17:5, 10

* This was a generation of grumblers (Deut.1:21-27). And then you see them grumbling repeatedly during the wilderness wandering (Ex.15:24; 16:2; 17:3; Num.11:1; 14:2; 16:41). I think that's why, when the next generation stands on the brink of entering the Promised Land, Joshua sends only two spies in, and he did it secretly (Joshua 2:1). And when they actually enter the Land and God gives them victory over the walled city of Jericho, He commands that no one is to talk at all (Joshua 6:10). The people march around the city for seven days, seven times on the seventh day. Can't you imagine someone in the crowd wanting to complain? "Why do we have to walk around the city again today?" "Why seven times today?" "I'm tired!" "We really look stupid out here!"

* Grumblers may have a valid complaint; they give birth to other grumblers

* Time of testing for us at CCSP, changes in ministry

* Phil.2: 14 Do everything without complaining or arguing

C. How To Overcome Temptation (vv.11-13)

1. Never think that you are incapable of failure (v.12)

* See Matt.26:31-35

2. Develop and maintain self-discipline (I Cor.9:27)

* Prov.25: 28 Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.

* II Tim. 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control

* See II Peter 1:4-6

* Note: Self control is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22), but it is also something I need to develop and practice. I have a gift of teaching, but I still must be a workman of the Word.

3. Develop and maintain a heavenly diet

* Numbers 11: 4 The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat!
5 We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost--also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.
6 But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!" (also vv.18-20, 31-34).

* It's not enough simply to say no to the flesh. We have to develop a heavenly appetite (refer to Deut.8:3).

* Rom.12:2

4. Guard your heart

* Note I Cor.10:6

* Prov.4: 23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

* Matthew 6: 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

* Col.3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

5. Keep your head in the clouds

* Col.3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.