

THE CHURCH THAT CHANGED A CONTINENT AND THE MAN WHO LED IT
FIRST CORINTHIANS

STUDY NUMBER 8+
Wednesday, July 10, 2013

I Corinthians Chapter 10 and 11
AVOIDING SATAN'S DEADLY STRATEGIES

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1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Face it, friend: being devoured is 100% fatal! It does not matter how long you have been a follower of Jesus Christ, Satan wants your total annihilation. His arsenal of weaponry is vast and effective. The moment you think you are immune to his demonic strategies, you have just been set up as a prime target.

Even some things that seem OK and might, in reality, not be harmful, can be deadly. Paul reminds us of that in 2 Cor. 11:14: **And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.**

The Apostle Paul - ever the loving pastor and spiritual care-giver - uses our two chapters (10 and 11 of I Corinthians) as bulwarks against Satan's attacks. Don't even for a moment think you don't need this teaching tonight; you do need it. So do I! So let's get started.

1 Cor. 10:1-12 [The Message]

Remember our history, friends, and be warned. All our ancestors were led by the providential Cloud and taken miraculously through the Sea. [2] They went through the waters, in a baptism like ours, as Moses led them from enslaving death to salvation life. [3] They all ate [4] and drank identical food and drink, meals provided daily by God. They drank from the Rock, God's fountain for them that stayed with them wherever they were. And the Rock was Christ. [5] But just experiencing God's wonder and grace didn't seem to mean much—most of them were defeated by temptation during the hard times in the desert, and God was not pleased.

[6] The same thing could happen to us. We must be on guard so that we never get caught up in wanting our own way as they did. [7] And we must not turn our religion into a circus as they did—"First the people partied, then they threw a dance." [8] We must not be sexually promiscuous—they paid for that, remember,

1 with twenty-three thousand deaths in one day! [9] We must never try to get Christ
2 to serve us instead of us serving him; they tried it, and God launched an epidemic of
3 poisonous snakes. [10] We must be careful not to stir up discontent; discontent
4 destroyed them.

5 [11] These are all warning markers—danger!—in our history books, written
6 down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are
7 parallel—they at the beginning, we at the end—and we are just as capable of
8 messing it up as they were. [12] Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not
9 exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about
10 self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.

11
12 Remember Paul was a Jew - as were most of the followers of Christ in that day. So in
13 this warning to the believers (almost all of whom were Jews), Paul refers to Old
14 Testament history to point out one of Satan's most powerful weapons:

SPIRITUAL PRIDE

17
18 How did this “pride” show itself among the Corinthian believers? Some of them were
19 flaunting their history of being Christians, their relative longevity in the Church and their
20 “faultless lives”. Right off the bat - in the King James version of this chapter - Paul
21 states flatly: **“Don't be so ignorant!”** 1 Cor. 10:1 **Moreover, brethren, I would not**
22 **that ye should be ignorant** To make a case for his warning, Paul referred to the
23 Old Testament.

24
25 I often hear of people who would just wash out the Old Testament. “We cannot learn
anything from those ancient Scriptures,” they say. How strange Paul didn't know that.
Or Peter. Or, for that fact, Jesus Himself. How many times did they all refer to the
Word of God has revealed in the Old Testament. If someone approaches you to say we
no longer learn from Genesis through Malachi, just walk away from them. They do not
know what they are talking about!

26
27 In these verses Paul refers to the Baptism of Moses. What was that? Were they all
28 baptized in the Red Sea? No, the Bible says they crossed on dry land. Paul is not
29 speaking of a baptism in water, nor is he referring to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The
30 word **BAPTISM** really means **IDENTIFICATION**. The Israelites following Moses
31 across the wilderness **IDENTIFIED** with this “leader of God.” Today when you and I
32 are baptized in water by immersion, we are **IDENTIFYING** with Jesus Christ before
33 people.

1 Paul is making a point that just in case these Corinthians believers thought they were tried
2 and true followers of Jesus, therefore, incapable of making wrong turns in the road - or
3 doing things that were truly spiritually stupid, they should remember their Old Testament
4 ancestors who had far more experience than they but who truly mucked up their
5 relationship with God and with Moses. And - if - IF - THEY WERE CAPABLE OF
6 SINNING BECAUSE THEIR SPIRITUAL PRIDE....WELL, SO WERE THE
7 BELIEVERS IN GREECE! 1 Cor. 10:5 **But just experiencing God's wonder and**
8 **grace didn't seem to mean much—most of them were defeated by temptation during**
9 **the hard times in the desert, and God was not pleased.**

10
11 WHAT?????? They were defeated by what? Temptation? Well then, don't think that
12 you are impervious to temptation either....temptation that comes to us in many different
13 forms. We are all tempted....but not all to the same thing.

14
15 I have never been tempted to rob a bank...or to drink myself into oblivion...or to run
16 around with wild women. But obviously some people are - yes, even professing
17 followers of Christ. They think they won't fall because of their "spiritual experience."
18 But they learn that they, too, are vulnerable. That's why Paul concluded the previous
19 chapter in the way he did: 1 Cor. 9:27 **I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm**
20 **not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing**
21 **out myself.** Or as the King James puts it: "...lest I myself be a castaway...."

22 THE THORN OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY

23
24
25 The following is an excerpt from an article in the current issue of *Enrichment* magazine
26 by the Assemblies of God Seminary professor Dr. Stephen Lim:

27
28 *In our culture (churches and individual believers) may possess abundant resources, but*
29 *they produce little of eternal spiritual value. Only as we truly abide in Jesus, fully*
30 *dependent on Him, can we "bear much fruit" (John 15:4, 5)*

31
32 *With few resources, however, as must rely on God. We see the explosive growth of the*
33 *church in many parts of the majority world. There, churches often have minimal assets*
34 *but great faith and dependence on God. They show us why we must avoid the thorn of*
35 *self-sufficiency.*

36
37 *Paul prayed three times for God to remove his thorn. Yet God allowed his servant to*
38 *continue suffering from a thorn of Satan. Why? So Paul would continue to depend on*
39 *God. He told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in*
40 *weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:89). Self-sufficiency so limits the work of God in our lives*
41 *that Christ may allow us to experience a thorn so we can avoid something more harmful.*

1 Paul's warning to this Pentecostal church in Corinth was this: Stop relying on your own
2 abilities, experiences and wisdom for you will certainly drop the ball somewhere along
3 the line!

4
5 Now....regarding temptation:

6
7 1 Cor. 10:13-14

8 **No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others**
9 **have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll**
10 **never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come**
11 **through it.**

12 **[14] So, my very dear friends, when you see people reducing God to something**
13 **they can use or control, get out of their company as fast as you can.**

14
15 We all like to think that the temptations we face are very unusual - perhaps even beyond
16 what anyone else has ever had to endure. The Word refutes that! From the King
17 James: 1 Cor. 10:13 **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to**
18 **man.**

I sometimes hear this: "But Pastor....this woman (sometimes the gender differs) is just so marvelous....no one like her....far beyond my wife....and I think God wants me to be happy....so I am leaving my family for this dream woman...." Blah, blah, blah. God says, "No, Pal....that woman is just common!" Arrrggghhhhh!

19
20 Further....God says, "You do not have to cave in to this 'common' temptation for He will
21 help you to overcome it!" (Verse 13) The KJV calls it "a way of escape!"

22
23 Not everyone has the temptation to chase some other husband or wife. Many, many
24 more are tempted to rely on OUR OWN SELF-SUFFICIENCY. And that introduces
25 self-pride and judgmental attitudes which can only be destructive.

26
27 In the following verses, Paul reminded the Corinthians (and us) that when we take
28 communion it is a powerful reminder to us that we are IN CHRIST and HE IS IN US:

29
30 1 Cor. 10:15-22

31 **I assume I'm addressing believers now who are mature. Draw your own**
32 **conclusions: [16] When we drink the cup of blessing, aren't we taking into ourselves**
33 **the blood, the very life, of Christ? And isn't it the same with the loaf of bread we**
34 **break and eat? Don't we take into ourselves the body, the very life, of Christ? [17]**

1 Because there is one loaf, our many-ness becomes one-ness—Christ doesn't become
2 fragmented in us. Rather, we become unified in him. We don't reduce Christ to what
3 we are; he raises us to what he is. [18] That's basically what happened even in old
4 Israel—those who ate the sacrifices offered on God's altar entered into God's action
5 at the altar.

6 [19] Do you see the difference? Sacrifices offered to idols are offered to nothing,
7 for what's the idol but a nothing? [20] Or worse than nothing, a minus, a demon! I
8 don't want you to become part of something that reduces you to less than yourself.
9 [21] And you can't have it both ways, banqueting with the Master one day and
10 slumming with demons the next. [22] Besides, the Master won't put up with it. He
11 wants us—all or nothing. Do you think you can get off with anything less?

12
13 That last verse reminds me of the lyrics from an old romantic ballad: "All...or nothing at
14 all...." I used to sing a gospel song as a kid with this lyric: "Not just a part....nor half of
15 my heart....I will give all to Him."

16
17 The fact that you have been a Christian for umpteen years does not give you license to be
18 a hindrance in any way to your brother or sister in Christ - or to the unsaved who watch
19 your life.

20 21 A WARNING ABOUT FLAUNTING GRACE ABOVE RESPONSIBILITY

22
23 1 Cor. 10:23-24

24 Looking at it one way, you could say, "Anything goes. Because of God's immense
25 generosity and grace, we don't have to dissect and scrutinize every action to see if it
26 will pass muster." But the point is not to just get by. [24] We want to live well, but
27 our foremost efforts should be to help others live well.

28
29 Let's look at the KJV of this verse:

30
31 1 Cor. 10:23

32 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful
33 for me, but all things edify not.

34
35 I like what one commentator wrote concerning this passage: "*The Christian has a*
36 *tremendous liberty in Christ. However, we are to seek the welfare of the other man.*
37 *So a Christian's life should not be primarily directed and dictated by liberty. Liberty is*
38 *limited by love. A Christian is not pinned down by legality; he is not circumscribed by*
39 *strict rules. He is limited by love. He should be concerned about his influence and*
40 *effect on others.*" (J. Vernon McGee / Volume 5 THRU THE BIBLE / Nelson Publishers / p. 47)

1 Note how the Apostle summarizes the teachings of this chapter in:
2

3 1 Cor. 10:33

4 **[32] At the same time, don't be callous in your exercise of freedom, thoughtlessly**
5 **stepping on the toes of those who aren't as free as you are. [33] I try my best to be**
6 **considerate of everyone's feelings in all these matters; I hope you will be, too.**

7
8 I try very hard not to hit my toes with a ball-peen hammer. They are just toes....however,
9 I would feel the pain in every part of my body. That's the way it is with the family of
10 God. When one member is hurt.....my goodness....we all hurt!

11 Chapter 11

12 **ELEVATING THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

13
14
15 I am secure in my conviction that few if any men ever did more to elevate the status of
16 women in society than did the Apostle Paul. Remember....while all Scripture is given by
17 the Holy Ghost and is profitable for our well-being....those verses must be properly
18 understood - and that means taking them IN CONTEXT. In Chapter 11, we learn of
19 Paul's great admiration for womanhood - and how men should act toward them. **LET**
20 **US READ THESE VERSES CAREFULLY....lest we do not respond in a Godly manner.**

21
22 1 Cor. 11:1-3 [New American Standard]

23 **Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.**

24 **[2] Now I praise you because you remember me in everything, and hold firmly to**
25 **the traditions, just as I delivered them to you. [3] But I want you to understand that**
26 **Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the**
27 **head of Christ.**

28
29 There is a God-given chain of command. It should not be violated.

30
31 Admiral Vernon Clark

32
33 During dinner last week, retired Admiral Vernon Clark told Darlene and me this story.
34 While serving as the head of the U.S. Navy, he was sitting in his Pentagon office one day
35 when he received a notification to go immediately to the White House where President
36 George W. Bush was awaiting him to talk to him about becoming the Chairman of the
37 Joint Chiefs of Staff. Clark responded, "I cannot talk to the President about that. I
38 have not addressed the issue first with my superior, Secretary of Defense Donald
39 Rumsfeld (who served in that position under both President Gerald Ford and President
40 Bush). I must abide by the chain of command." He was then asked, "Well, don't you

1 wish to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs?" To which Clark responded: "That's not the
2 issue; Chain of Command is the issue."

3
4 Here God gives, through Paul, a divine chain of command. Christ is the head of
5 mankind; and man is the head of a woman. Ah, ah, ah - don't jump to conclusions here.
6 That does not make man superior nor does it make him the big chief. There are caveats
7 to responsibility - ones which many men will not accept. Let's deal with them.

8
9 "The head of the woman is man." Let me point out that there is no article in the Greek so
10 the Word says **IN THE MARRIAGE UNION** there is a head - and that is the husband.
11 The wife is to respond to the man. **HOW SHE RESPONDS IS DEPENDENT UPON**
12 **THE ACTION OF THE MAN - AND HERE IS WHERE MANY MEN LOST THEIR**
13 **PERSPECTIVE OF THEIR ROLE.**

14
15 May I point out that if a woman cannot look up to - or respond to the man she married -
16 why in the world did she marry him in the first place? She should have left him high
17 and dry **BEFORE** the marriage altar. **But you husbands....lest you read this and**
18 **gloat....the Word says you must be willing to DIE for your wife for you love her so**
19 **much.** Ah, c'mon, Pastor, where does the Bible say that? Glad you asked: Ephes.
20 **5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave**
21 **Himself up for her;**

22
23 So here is God's plan:

- 24 • Christ
- 25 • Mankind (for Jesus loves men and women **EQUALLY**)
- 26 • The precious wife - Bride

27 28 **WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH WOMEN'S HATS IN CHURCH?**

29
30 When I have spoken in some churches overseas, the women have come with their heads
31 covered. Are all women supposed to do that? No - it's a choice, but not a command -
32 EXCEPT in Corinth in Paul's day:

33
34 1 Cor. 11:5-10

35 **And that is why a woman who publicly prays or prophesies without a covering on**
36 **her head dishonors her husband [for her covering is a sign of her subjection to him].**
37 **[6] Yes, if she refuses to wear a head covering, then she should cut off all her hair.**
38 **And if it is shameful for a woman to have her head shaved, then she should wear a**
39 **covering. [7] But a man should not wear anything on his head [when worshiping, for**
40 **his hat is a sign of subjection to men].**

1 God's glory is man made in his image, and man's glory is the woman. [8] The first
2 man didn't come from woman, but the first woman came out of man. [9] And Adam,
3 the first man, was not made for Eve's benefit, but Eve was made for Adam. [10] So a
4 woman should wear a covering on her head as a sign that she is under man's
5 authority, a fact for all the angels to notice and rejoice in.

6
7 So...how come you women aren't wearing veils or hats here today? Because you do not
8 need to - unless you are 2,000 years old and came from the church in Corinth.

9
10 In that ancient Greek city (remember with the Temple of Apaphrodite on top of the
11 acropolis) the one thousand or more "ministers" were all prostitutes. They did not wear
12 head apparel (or perhaps little else for that matter). So Paul wrote, "When women come
13 to church, let them show that they are Ladies - and not prostitutes of Apaphrodite - by
14 covering their heads. Just as simple as that!

15
16 1 Cor. 11:11-12 [New Living]

17 But in relationships among the Lord's people, women are not independent of men,
18 and men are not independent of women. [12] For although the first woman came
19 from man, all men have been born from women ever since, and everything comes
20 from God.

21
22 Many women have no idea the power they hold over men. Your influence - for good or
23 bad - is immeasurable.

24 THE LORD'S SUPPER

25
26
27 1 Cor. 11:17-29

28 Regarding this next item, I'm not at all pleased. I am getting the picture that when
29 you meet together it brings out your worst side instead of your best! [18] First, I get
30 this report on your divisiveness, competing with and criticizing each other. I'm
31 reluctant to believe it, but there it is. [19] The best that can be said for it is that the
32 testing process will bring truth into the open and confirm it.

33 [20] And then I find that you bring your divisions to worship—you come together,
34 and instead of eating the Lord's Supper, [21] you bring in a lot of food from the
35 outside and make pigs of yourselves. Some are left out, and go home hungry. Others
36 have to be carried out, too drunk to walk. I can't believe it! [22] Don't you have your
37 own homes to eat and drink in? Why would you stoop to desecrating God's church?
38 Why would you actually shame God's poor? I never would have believed you would
39 stoop to this. And I'm not going to stand by and say nothing.

40 [23] Let me go over with you again exactly what goes on in the Lord's Supper and

1 why it is so centrally important. I received my instructions from the Master himself
2 and passed them on to you. The Master, Jesus, on the night of his betrayal, took
3 bread. [24] Having given thanks, he broke it and said,

4 "This is my body, broken for you.

5 Do this to remember me."

6 [25] After supper, he did the same thing with the cup:

7 "This cup is my blood, my new covenant with you.

8 Each time you drink this cup, remember me."

9 [26] What you must solemnly realize is that every time you eat this bread and every
10 time you drink this cup, you reenact in your words and actions the death of the
11 Master. You will be drawn back to this meal again and again until the Master
12 returns. You must never let familiarity breed contempt.

13 [27] Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Master irreverently is
14 like part of the crowd that jeered and spit on him at his death. Is that the kind of
15 "remembrance" you want to be part of? [28] Examine your motives, test your heart,
16 come to this meal in holy awe.

17 [29] If you give no thought (or worse, don't care) about the broken body of the
18 Master when you eat and drink, you're running the risk of serious consequences.

19
20 While we can draw some remarkable truths from this passage for ourselves and this
21 church, remember to whom it was originally written - the church in Corinth 2000 years
22 ago.

23
24 We are not commanded in Scripture to remember the Lord's birthday (although it is not
25 wrong to do so and it gives us much joy and fulfillment); however, we ARE commanded
26 to remember the Lord's death. And the "visual" we are given to do so is the Lord's
27 table - or communion.

28
29 The Corinthians were virtually blaspheming in the way they observed communion. It
30 had become like a "church supper," augmented by the fact that many of the "Christians"
31 just didn't like each other and they argued and fussed even while they were attempting to
32 observe our Lord's death.

33
34 In the Assemblies of God, most churches observe communion once monthly. The
35 elements are bread and the fruit of the vine, symbols expressing our sharing the divine
36 nature of Jesus (2 Peter 1:4) **Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious**
37 **promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped**
38 **the corruption that is in the world through lust, also a memorial of His suffering and**
39 **death and a prophecy of His second coming.**
40

1 Some Christians refer to Communion as the “Eucharist,” however, the wording used is
2 much less important than the recognition that “the Lord’s supper” takes place at “the
3 Lord’s table.”
4

5 Communion recognizes the historical reality of Jesus’ sacrifice. Of the bread, Jesus said,
6 “This is My body which is broken for you.” Of the cup, He said, “This cup is the new
7 covenant in my blood.” So to us, Communion is not a ritual. It is a deeply moving
8 reminder of the exquisite price that was paid for our souls’ redemption at Calvary.
9

10 But Communion is also an experience to call participants to a moment of accountability
11 before the Lord. Scripture teaches us to “examine ourselves” - not someone else,
12 ourselves! There is no benefit whatsoever in observing the Communion reminder if we
13 are living in flagrant disobedience to our Lord’s directives.
14

15 This church must adhere to the standards given us in God’s Word. We valiantly attempt
16 to do that as we call upon Him for directions. May we ever live in the Scriptures. So
17 we shall please the Lord and live lives that are worthwhile in His sight.
18

19 Next week we study chapter 12: SPIRITUAL GIFTS
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