

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

1-25-12

The Way of Escape!

I. Intro: Slide#1-7

- A. Slide#8 The nice thing about watching DVD's is that it has *scene selections*...where you can go back & watch or review a **specific section**.
1. That's what Paul does here. He clicks back to 5 specific **scene selections** in Israel's history, so the Corinthians, & now the *Calvary Murrietians*, won't be *doomed to repeat it!*
 - a) Yet...WE DO repeat it! :(
 2. **Ecclesiastes 1:3-11** teaches us that Life has "cycles" of time.
 - a) Especially see vs.4 & 11.
 3. So it has been aptly said, "Those who do not learn from History **ARE** doomed to repeat it!"
- B. **Spirituality** doesn't guarantee *infallibility!*
1. There is a big danger in **overconfidence!**
 2. People that enjoy **great privileges** are far from being safe from **temptation!**
- C. **Outline: 5 Privileges - 5 Precepts - 5 Promises!**

II. Slide#9 **5 PRIVILEGES! (1-5)**

- A. Note: Paul speaks of these events as **factual history!**
- B. Slide#10 [1] **DISTINCT DIRECTION!** (1a)
- C. **Cloud** – pillar of cloud by day.
- D. They felt they were walking aimlessly in the desert, but they weren't.
1. They had a **guide** 24/7. No guessing game for them. It turned, moved, stopped, started...They just needed to follow.
 2. It was easy as opening their eyes!
 3. Don't tell me...**"if I could only see a sign...then I'd follow the Lord!"** - The God of Israel showed them daily signs...but to no avail!
- E. It seems the **supernatural** became **ordinary**. They took God's presence for granted.
1. You might struggle w/the same thing if you live in a **Christian home**, attend a **Christian school**, are in **Christian activities**, have all **Christian friends**. - It may become so ordinary, the doldrums might set in, of the day in & day out Christian life.
 - a) I learned this in China my 1st trip, when we **couldn't pray** in public. We took the ability to pray in public for granted & wouldn't have recognized it until this freedom was taken away.
- F. Slide#11,12 [2] **DOOR OF DELIVERANCE!** (1b)

G. All passed though the sea (Red Sea) – **They didn't even get their feet wet!**

H. **Slide#13 [3] LARGE LEADERSHIP!** (2)

I. **Baptized** – immersed into Moses (i.e. *brought into close relationship w/Moses*)

1. Just as we have been “**baptized**” in to Christ. Gal.3:27 **For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**
2. In Paul's day if you wanted to **dye a garment** a different color, you'd take it to a merchant, & he'd **baptize** it,...he would “*dip it, to change its identity*”!

J. **God not only gave them distinct direction & doors of deliverance, but also a large leader to follow...**His man Moses!

K. **Slide#14 [4] FALLING FOOD!** (3)

L. For 40 years, 6 days a week. **And they never went hungry.** (eating manna)

M. **Slide#15 [5] DESERT DRINK!** (4)

N. Here's Jesus' **Pre-incarnate presence** - a proof text Jesus couldn't have been only a man, for it speaks of **Him** being around a few millennium prior!

O. Jesus had His hand in the affairs of His people...here providing them w/all the **water** they needed. (**Ex.17:5-7** water from rock)

P. You'd think with all of these blessings thus far...**Direction, Deliverance, Leadership, Food, & Drink, they'd be thankful & obedient...Nope!**

Q. (5) **Most of them?** - There's an understatement!

1. They estimate **3 million** left Egypt...**How many of this generation entered into the land?...2!!!** (Joshua & Caleb)
 - a) This had to be an eye opener for the **Corinthians**. All these bodies full of miraculous food-drink, now strewn all over the desert.
2. **Not well pleased** – They failed to please God!
3. Paul's point – **Having privileges doesn't guarantee successful living!**
 - a) You must open **God's instruction manual** to correctly assemble a godly life!...Here's how, w/these 5 Precepts...

III. **Slide#16 5 PRECEPTS! (6-12)** (Precept = *a rule of moral conduct*)

A. **Examples** – (an awful, warning example)

1. That's why its so important to read the OT. **Examples, warnings, admonitions.**

B. **Slide#17 [1] DON'T CRAVE EVIL THINGS!** (6) [Quail Bash!]

C. **Lust** – (lit.) long after. NIV “*set our hearts on*”. To crave.

- D. They'd been **overexposed** to supernatural benefits – yet still lacked the proper response.
- E. Story in **Numbers ch.11** esp. vss.4, 33-34 [**Quail Bash!**] (like whack-a-mole-game)
- F. **Slide#18 [2] DON'T BE IDOLATROUS!** (7) [**Golden Calf**]
- G. This story is in **Ex.32:6** where **Aaron** made the golden calf. [or melted it in the fire & Poof, it came out]
- H. “An idol is anything that **seizes the adoration** that belongs to God. It can be a parent, a child, a spouse, a friend, a reputation, a goal...anything that takes Gods seat on the throne of our hearts!” (Swindoll, Cor., pg.53)
- I. **We all worship!** (all humanity are worshipers!)
1. Peter Kreeft said, “**The opposite of Christianity is not atheism but idolatry.**”
 2. You may worship your mind/intellect; your own experience; scientific rationalism.
 - a) But everyone has devoted themselves to some idol/god.
 3. Idolatry is taking a **good** thing & elevating it to a **God** thing.
 4. They are really easy to identify idols in other cultures(H.K., India, Thailand,etc.) **but** often hard to dial into our own idols.
 - a) **We worship** our sports teams, our fav bands, our career's.
 - b) **Some worship** their sexual exploits, their hard bodies, their job, their house.
 - c) **Some worship** where they live/neighborhood, their car, their clothing/label.
 5. **What idols do you need to pull down in your life?**
- J. **Slide#19 [3] DON'T BE IMMORAL!** (8) [**Num25, Israel harlotry w/women of Moab**]
1. Where **Phinehas**, Aaron's son, stopped the plague when he thrust a **javelin** through both man & women committing sex act in their tent, because of the “in your face” attitude(vs.6) as he took this Midianite women in front of Moses & people weeping in front of the tabernacle of meeting. [**24,000 in vs.9; diff? In 1 day Corinth passage**]
- K. This suggests a **process**: **Starts w/an evil attitude**(crave/lust); **continues w/a substitution of other things in God's place**(idolatry); **& then results in immorality** (i.e.) “anything in our lives that's inconsistent w/ Purity”!
- L. **Slide#20 [4] DON'T TEST THE LORD!** (9) [**fiery serpents**]
- M. They tested God in Numb.21:5, **The people spoke against God and against Moses: have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?** - & God responded, *not so warmly*, in the next verse, **So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.**
1. **Don't dare God to come through!**
 2. In the back of our mind there seems to hang a sign that reads, “It'll be alright. **God will forgive.**” - Forgetting about His **holiness as well as His love!**

N. Never dare to exploit the Goodness of God!

O. **Slide#21 [5] DON'T COMPLAIN!** (10) [Numb.16; plague; 14,700 died; put fire in censor to stop]

P. Numb.16:41-49. **On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the Lord."**

Q. **Complain** – murmur, grumble.

1. When they didn't get what they wanted...they complained bitterly & relentlessly! – Oh, thankless grumbling!

2. "Do you meet life with a **whine** or a **cheer**?"

R. We have perfected the art of grumbling! Matter of fact we even can do it when everything is going great! – I'll show you...

1. Have you ever complained of not having **enough room** in your **closet**...because of having so many clothes?

2. Have you ever complained of your **freezer being too full** to place something in it?

S. **Slide#22** (11) **Examples** – *tupos*, "to strike w/a blow for the purpose of leaving an impression"

1. Was used for the **nail prints** in Jesus' hands.

2. It was used for **stamping** the **imprint** of the emperor on coins.

a) Like memory foam beds – get up leaves an impression for a while.

3. **Thus** these wilderness experiences should make a strong, permanent impression on us!

a) Lk.12:48b **For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.**

b) God saw fit to **privilege** us, we ought to **respond** w/a **gracious spirit** & an obedient heart!

T. (12) **Do you think you are an impregnable fortress?**

1. **Slide#23 Sardis** – Rev.3:3 told to "**Be watchful.**"

a) Sardis was an acropolis, built on a jutting spur of rock, & was impregnable...**until** Cyrus came along(549bc).

b) **He offered a reward to any that could get in.** A soldier named Hyeroeades saw a soldier of Sardis accidentally drop his helmet over the edge. When he went down for it, he marked his path. That night he led a band up the cliff by that very path. They found it unguarded – captured the citadel – which was counted **too safe!**

c) Take heed **CM.** - Take heed **individual believers!**

U. It was F.B. Meyer, I believe, who once said that when we see a brother or sister **in sin**, there are **two things** we **do not know**: **First**, we do not know **how hard** he or she tried not to sin. **And**

Second, we do not know the power of the forces that assailed him or her. We also do not know what we would have done in the same circumstances.¹

IV. Slide#24 **5 PROMISES!** (13)

- A. Slide#25 [1] **LIFE IS FULL OF TEMPTATIONS!** (13a)
- B. These are tests designed **not** to make us fall, but to test us, **so** we **emerge stronger!**
- C. God **will not** remove from you the temptation that is *common to all*, because as Alan Redpath fitly said, “God has no pets!”
- D. Slide#26 [2] **THERE IS NO NEW TEMPTATION UNDER THE SUN!** (13b)
- E. **They are common** – Others have **endured**, others have **come through it!**
1. Certain **party’s** God won’t attend, & I believe one of them is a “Pity Party!”
- F. **Lightfoot** (Bishop of Durham) was riding in a horse & carriage, on a very narrow mountain in Norway. It was so narrow it was only inches from the wheel to the edge. His friend riding w/ him said, “**you’d be safer to get out & walk on this stretch.**” Lightfoot surveyed the situation & said, “Other carriages have taken this road, **Drive on!**”
1. **Other Christians** have gone before you saints, whom were tempted in the **same way & in the same things.** [In the Greek...*suck it up cupcake!*] :)
- G. Slide#27 [3] **YOU ARE ABLE!** (13c)
- H. **Not beyond what you are able** - **Not a moment** longer...**not a degree** hotter than you can bear!
- I. Slide#28 [4] **ALWAYS A WAY OUT!** (13d)
- J. **Escape** – The idea is an army apparently surrounded, & they’re suddenly seeing an escape route to safety.
- K. There is no need to fall to temptations – **There is a way out!**
- L. **Check it out...**Think of a temptation you’ve fallen to in the past. **Wasn’t there an escape route?**
- M. Slide#29,30 [5] **HE MAKES THE WAY!** (13e)
- N. **Not by surrender** –**not by retreat** – **but the way of conquest** is in the power of the **Grace of God!!!** – **He** enables you!
- O. Sometimes the only way is to *“run for your life”!*...**see** vs.14.
1. **Where should we flee?** Into the arms of Jesus!
 2. Remember - “**When you flee from temptations, be sure you don’t leave a forwarding address behind!**”

¹ Stephen Brown, Christianity Today, April 5, 1993, p. 17

P. Spurgeon said (paraphrased), **Live for Gods glory, if you do that, no testing can ever shake you!** **If it glorifies God for me to loose my property, I am no loser. I gave to God my goods years ago! If I am put in prison & have lost my liberty, I am no loser. I gave up my liberty years ago! If you are told you are going to die, you are no loser. For you gave Him your life years ago!**

Q. **Old Indian Legend:**

Many years ago, Indian youths would go away in solitude to prepare for manhood. One such youth hiked into a beautiful valley, green with trees, bright with flowers. There he fasted. But on the third day, as he looked up at the surrounding mountains, he noticed one tall rugged peak, capped with dazzling snow. I will test myself against that mountain, he thought. **He put on his buffalo-hide shirt, threw his blanket over his shoulders and set off to climb the peak.** When he reached the top he stood on the rim of the world. He could see forever, and his heart swelled with pride. Then he heard a rustle at his feet, and looking down, he saw a snake. Before he could move, the snake spoke. "I am about to die," said the snake. "It is too cold for me up here and I am freezing. There is no food and I am starving. Put me under your shirt and take me down to the valley." "No," said the youth. "I am forewarned. I know your kind. You are a rattlesnake. If I pick you up, you will bite, and your bite will kill me." "Not so," said the snake. "I will treat you differently. If you do this for me, you will be special. I will not harm you." The youth resisted awhile, but this was a very persuasive snake with beautiful markings. At last the youth tucked it under his shirt and carried it down to the valley. There he laid it gently on the grass, when suddenly the snake coiled, rattled, and leapt, biting him on the leg. "But you promised..." cried the youth. "You knew what I was when you picked me up." said the snake as it slithered away."

1. Don't listen to your temptation. **It will be very persuasive & have beautiful markings!**
Don't listen!