

Bible Study November 15, 2023

I Corinthians 10 – 11:1 Warning Against Idolatry

I Cor. 10: 1-5 Paul ties in the previous chapter concerning giving up personal rights for the sake of the Gospel to 1-22. Paul ties in the OT people of God (Israel) to the NT church. The example of what happened to them in the wilderness should be example enough to convince the Corinthians they should stay away from pagan worship. They were surrounded by temples throughout the region where Apollo, Asclepius, Demeter, Aphrodite, and many other pagan gods and goddesses were worshipped. Those who followed the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day, from Egypt to the land of Canaan, were tempted by idols and pagan worship. Even though they ate of the spiritual manna and drank from the Rock representing Christ, they were not allowed to enter the Promised Land. Only Joshua and Caleb entered, as the original group perished in the wilderness.

I Cor. 10: 6-13 This and many other OT examples of not listening to God's instructions are to be examples for the Corinthians. Paul cautions them not to eat in the pagan temples as they may be tempted to fall away. Immorality is a great temptation. He cautions any "who thinks that he stands," most likely the special knowledge many claim to possess, will protect them from temptation. Only Christ can protect, only Christ can save, only those in Christ can persevere.

I Cor. 10: 14-22 Paul gives a call to flee from idolatry. Just as the Christian partakes of bread and wine in communion, in participation, in fellowship with Christ, he calls the church not to commune with demons in idol worship. False religions are not merely the result of human imagination but generally have demonic power behind them. Not everything that has a "supernatural" appearance is always from God. God will not have other gods before Him. Read Deuteronomy 5: 6-10

I Cor. 10: 23-11:1 Do All to the Glory of God Paul now addresses meat sold in the market that was sacrificed to idols, and then eaten in the home. If an unbeliever invites you to eat in their home, and serves such meat without discussing it, eat it without asking. However, if they tell you, it has been sacrificed, don't eat it. Do nothing to cause the weaker brother to sin or to doubt their faith. So, whether you eat or not, do all for the glory of God. Imitate Paul, as he imitates Christ.