

# **1 Corinthians 10**

## **1 Corinthians 10.1-5**

Note: Many Old Testament references in v 1-10

**V1** – "*under a cloud*" – Exodus 13.20-22

- The pillar of cloud by day, pillar of fire by night
- This was before crossing the Red Sea

"*Passed through the sea*" – Exodus 14.21-25

- Water on both sides, cloud over them

**V2** – "*baptized*" – See Romans 6.3

**V3** – "*ate the same spiritual food*" – Exodus 16.2-4, 13-20, 35

- They grumbled about the quail and the manna; they remembered the good food in Egypt

**V4** – "*drank the same spiritual drink*" – Exod. 17.1-7

- Grumbled again – water from the rock
- Numbers 20.1-13 – more grumbling
- "*The rock was Christ*" (called Lord) – Deut. 32.3-4, 15, 18

**V5** – "*they were laid low in the wilderness*" – Numbers 14.26-35

- They were killed because of grumbling and were condemned to wander 40 years

## **1 Corinthians 10.6-10**

**V6** – "*evil things as they also craved*" – Numbers 11.4, 31-34

- The plague for being grumblers

**V7** – "*idolaters*" – Exod. 32.1-9

- The golden calf

**V8** – "*act immorally*" – Numbers 25.1-9

- Sexual relations with daughters of Moab and Baal

Optional material:

Additional notes on Numbers 25.9 and 1 Cor. 10.8 (taking Moabite women)

*Beacon Bible Commentary*, VIII, 406:

The Apostle may be giving the immediate result here, while the record given by Moses mentioned the full result.

[This is the correct answer for this verse]

B. W. Johnson, *The People's New Testament*, Vol. 2, p. 104

*Numbers* states that 24,000 lost their lives. Paul names 23,000 as the number who lost their lives "by the plague." The number was no doubt between 23,000 and 24,000, and is stated in each

place by a round sum, according to Jewish custom, Paul naming the smaller.

Neil Lightfoot, *the Living Word: First Corinthians*, p. 44:

The particular reference is to the incident related in *Numbers 25*, in which the number that perished was said to be 24,000. Since Paul gives 23,000 as the number, some have supposed a contradiction. However, it is likely that both references use round numbers and that the exact number would be somewhere between the two. It was not at all unusual for the Hebrews to deal in round numbers.

**V 9** – "try to Lord" – *Numbers 21.4-9*

-They complained about the "miserable food" – God sent serpents to kill the people

**V 10** – "grumble... and were destroyed" – *Numbers 16.41-50*

-This verse is basically addressed to the weak

## **1 Corinthians 10.11-13**

**V 11** – "the ends of the ages"

-*Heb. 9.26* – the consummation of God's plan

-*1 John 2.18* – "It is the last hour"

-*1 Peter 4.7* – "The end of all things is at hand"

**V 12** – The lesson for us today: "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

**V 13** – The chapter has been depressing so far – now Paul offers hope

-2 choices at every point in life

-Example: Joseph and Potiphar's wife – Joseph chose to honor God, even though it meant fleeing from Potiphar's wife (*Gen. 39.7-18*)

## **1 Corinthians 10.14-22** – the disadvantages of eating meat offered to idols

**V 14** – What is the most important word in this verse? "Flee"

-It is difficult to do

-*1 Thess. 5.22* – Avoid anything that looks evil

-*"Idolatry"* - the weak Christians still believed (somewhat) in idols (*1 Cor. 8-7*)

**V 15** – They are still full of pride

-Notice: Pay attention

-*"Cup of blessing"* – *1 Cor. 11.24* – They gave thanks first

**V 16-17** – A reference to the Lord's Supper

-**When we partake of the Lord's Supper, what are we telling the world?** We are united with Christ and our fellow Christians

**V 18** – Israelites – when they ate meat sacrificed to God, it meant that they had allegiance to God

- Old Testament sacrifices: *Lev. 7.15-19, 8.31, Deut. 12.18*
- Partly sacrificed, partly eaten by the sons of Aaron (priests), partly eaten by the Jews offering the sacrifice
- So to partake in an Old Testament sacrifice was to commit oneself to God

**V 19** – The strong were thinking: "Paul is crazy – he said in *Chapter 8* that "*idols are nothing*"  
 -Yes, idols are nothing (*1 Cor. 8.4*)

**V 20-21** – You cannot worship God and demons (*Matt. 6.24, Luke 16.13*)

- Does Satan actively work in the world today?**
- 1 Peter 5.8* – He seeks *someone to devour*
- James 4.7* – *Resist the devil and he will flee from you*
- It is incredible that some people today actually worship Satan!

**V 22** – A girlfriend may date another guy to make her boyfriend jealous

- But Christians should not do that to God
- If one still believed in idols, then eating meat offered to idols would be idolatry (*1 John 5.21*)

## **1 Corinthians 10.22-33**

**V 22** – All things might be technically "legal" or "Scriptural," but we can choose to avoid certain things because of the circumstances where we find ourselves

**V 23** – A reference to *8.13*

- "*Lawful*" – idols are nothing
- "*Profitable*" and "*edify*" – may not be best to eat meat offered to idols

**V 24** – "*neighbor*" – fellow members of the congregation

**V 25** – Some stalls were for meat for a certain god

- But Christians were to get meat from the general meat market and ask no questions

**V 26** – **Read 1 Timothy 4.4-5 and Acts 10.9-16** – Peter was to call nothing that God made "unclean"

- We may not like eating eggplant or grasshoppers or other foods that disgust us, but let us be careful about calling such foods "unclean"

**V 27-28** – We offer a prayer of thanksgiving before a meal and do nothing to offend a weaker Christian

- Probably "*anyone*" refers to a weaker Christian

**V 29** – We don't want to abuse another Christian's conscience

**V 30** – Paul gave thanks for all meat

**V 31** – **First basic principle for all matters of opinion and weaker Christians?** Do only what glorifies God

**V 32** – **Second basic principle?** Do not offend the weaker Christians in the congregation

**V 33** – The ultimate goal: converting more people to Christ

Great principles from 1 Cor. 8-10:

1. We may have the right to do many things, but we must be careful about offending weaker Christians
2. We are not to violate our own consciences

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