



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## 1 CORINTHIANS 9:24—10:13

### LESSON: LEARN FROM BAD EXAMPLES—

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#### INTRODUCTION:

##### <sup>1</sup>BECOMING ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE (1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23)

Paul describes his approach to ministry, adapting to different cultural contexts to win more people to Christ. He declares, *"I have become all things to all men, so that by all possible means I might save some."* The Greek phrase "all things to all men" reflects his flexibility and commitment to the mission.

#### LESSON

#### I. I CORINTHIANS 9:24-27

**9:24** Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. Paul gives the analogy of Christians as athletes running in a race in an Olympic Game.

<sup>2</sup>Paul was in Corinth on one of these occasions. The games happened every two years in a pagan temple. There were great numbers of visitors, and they had to live in tents. So, as we look at Christians being in a race, we must know that all runners run; all enter the race to run and win, but there's only one who receives the prize.

*"So run in a way that you may obtain the prize."* **How?** Vigorously; diligently with persistence. Philippians 3:14 says for us to *"...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

**9:25** And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. The athletes go over and above to master the flesh by denying it many things. **How?** Strenuous discipline in their body, mind, thought, spirit, exercise, workouts, etc.. Those who took part in the games had to train hard for about ten months before the event. The reward for a winner in these games was a crown that people made from a wild plant's leaves; a corruptible crown, and those leaves soon died. But Christians look forward to an eternal reward that will never disappear (an incorruptible crown).

**9:26** I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:—Paul says that he does not run with uncertainty (hesitation or doubt), but with purpose in every step without distraction. There is a finish line we get to cross at the end of the race. Our finish line is Heaven! Paul also says, he even fights not as a boxer would shadowbox; hitting air; and missing the target. You have an opponent, and if you're fighting an enemy, aim at the one you're fighting with the Word of God! You're fighting to win! **How?** With accurate aim, sacrificing till the end, and staying in the fight to conquer and win.

**9:27** But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. Remember this: keep your body under subjection (control; domination) of cravings or any sin. *"Body, I speak the Word of faith to you, that you are the temple of the Holy Ghost, so come under subjection to God's Word!"* Paul trained his body to do what it should, not what it wanted to. **How?** By simply not giving in to it—denying the body consistently whatever it craves, no matter the pain. Because after he or you have spoken the Word; preached to others, you don't want to be found at a fault or unfit. If you're preaching righteousness, then live righteously. There are going to be struggles as was in Paul's life.

<sup>1</sup> [https://biblehub.com/chaptersummaries/1\\_corinthians/9.htm](https://biblehub.com/chaptersummaries/1_corinthians/9.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/1-corinthians-lbw.htm>

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## II. I CORINTHIANS 10:1-10

**10:1** Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;— ALL had left Egypt (a type of the world), and began the journey to the Promised Land (a type of heaven). Paul uses the analogy as Israel being under a cloud. So, as Israel came out of Egypt, he tells these Corinthians don't be ignorant, because God bestowed many blessings upon Israel. Don't get it twisted with being overconfident, and having a lack of self-discipline. God is the Blessor!

- Israel had the cloud of God's presence, which refers to God's presence and guidance!
- Israel passed through the Red Sea, which refers to the God's great deliverance of from the bondages and enslavement of Egypt's hold which was a symbol of the world'.

**10:2** And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;—When the people passed through...

- All Israel was baptized (*baptism—both in sea and cloud*) into Moses and his leadership. Moses stood as a type of Christ. God gave Israel the leader it needed. Moses was the one that stuttered; couldn't talk, and he had to lead millions of people. We can hardly put up with 5-10 people!

**10:3** And did all eat the same spiritual meat;—

- All Israel partook of the food and water of God's provision. The word "spiritual" simply means that the food and water came from God.

**10:4** And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. God took care of Israel's daily necessities.

- Israel had the presence of Christ Jesus, for they All drank from the spiritual Rock, because He is the Rock that provided water for them. *Jesus was there with them as a mighty Rock of spiritual refreshment.*

<sup>3</sup>Paul reminded the experienced believers not to become *overconfident* in their ability to withstand temptation. The five "alls" in (vv.1-4), highlight the five downward steps in (vv.6-10). 5 Good VS 5 Bad Examples.

### I. Five Blessings for the Israelites (10:1-4):

1. "under the cloud" (v.1) - divine guidance
2. "passed through the sea" (v.1) - divine deliverance
3. "baptized unto Moses" (v.2) - divine leadership
4. "eat the same spiritual meat" (v.3) - divine provision
5. "drink the same spiritual drink" (v.4) - divine intervention

**10:5** But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. The word "But" is a conjunction, to me an interruption and contrast to what was already said. They had all these blessings, however, what happened to most of the people is tragic. There were over two million Jews who stepped out to follow God to the Promised Land, but only two made it. How many are faithful and steadfast, unmovable and always abounding in the work of the Lord; pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God? How many will be like Caleb and Joshua?

**10:6** Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Paul lets us know that these things he's showing them are bad examples. You see, the Corinthian church was guilty of the same sins that their forefathers committed. Paul didn't want them to be ignorant of the same things.

- There was the sin of LUST. They lusted and craved for the delicious food of Egypt.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-dangers-of-overconfidence/>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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We are warned to not desire evil things as they had also lusted after. As a result, a plague broke out among the people, and many of them were killed (Num. 11:34), and that place was known as *"the grave of greediness or lust."*

**10:7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.**

- There was the sin of Idolatry. While Moses was up in the mountain receiving the Law, the people became restless waiting for of Mose to come down to them, then Aaron makes a golden calf idol (Exodus 32:1-6), and many of the people worshipped it. They were not to worship idols as others did *"The people sat down to eat and drink and then got up to dance" in worship of the golden calf.*

**10:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.**

- There was the sin of Fornication or immorality. 23,000 committed immoralities with their neighbor, and in one day as a result of this sin, they were judged and condemned to destruction, and banned from the Promised Land. (Read Numbers 25:1-9).

**10:9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.**

- There was the sin of Tempting Christ. The word *"tempt"* means to try the Lord's patience; to see how far a person can go. The children of Israel...
  - Often felt that God and His leader Moses demanded and expected too much.
  - Often longed for the things of the flesh which they had formerly known in Egypt (the world).

They became discontent with the things God had provided for them, and began to long for, and wanted to return to Egypt. As a result, many of them perished in the wilderness, and were not allowed to enter the Promised Land. In Numbers 21:6 *"And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died."* The people thought they could question and speak against God and Moses (Num. 21:5). God didn't play. These were the bad examples

## II. Five Downward Steps of Temptation for the Israelites (10:6-10):

1. They lusted after evil things - (v.6, Num. 11:4) They wanted the things back in Egypt.
2. They worshiped idols - (v.7, Ex. 32:6) - The golden calf worshiped in the wilderness.
3. They committed immorality - (v.8, Num. 25:1-9) - Baal worship and sexual immorality.
4. They tested God's patience - (v.9, Num. 21:6) - Israelites spoke against God and Moses.
5. They murmured - (v.10, Num. 16:41-49) - Complained about Moses and Aaron.

Temptation or being tempted is not a sin. <sup>4</sup>Temptation is a sign that we still live in a fallen world. It is how you respond to the temptation or following a bad example that makes the difference. We know our Lord Jesus was tempted. Therefore, all will be tempted, and it comes when you least expect it When everything is going your way ... when you just got a promotion ... when your dreams start to come true ... Watch out! Be careful! Today's victories often lead on to tomorrow's trials.

**10:10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.**

- There was the sin of murmuring and complaining and grumbling. This went on a lot with the Israelites, and as a result was judgment and punishment by the Destroyer, that is, an angel sent by God to execute judgment. They perished in the wilderness, and never saw the Promised Land.  
Two instance is in 2 Samuel 24:16 and Num. 16:41-49

## III. I CORINTHIANS 10:11-13

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/1999-05-30-Faithful-to-the-Tempted/>  
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**10:11** Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Even though these things happened, *they were written down so that we could read about them and learn from them in these last days as the world nears its end.* The end or climax of the world (age) has come upon us. And that age is the age of grace, which is what we're in now. It's the last age of human history; therefore, we must heed the warning example of Israel.

### III. Three Conclusions about Temptation in (10:11-13):

1. Temptation will come. It is not designed to make us fall, but to make us stronger (v. 11).

**10:12** Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. This is a warning, but Paul gives us a spiritual warning, not a physical warning.

2. Temptation comes to everyone. Don't feel that you have been singled out (v. 12).

As Paul talks to the Corinthian believers that think they are strong and exercise their Christian liberty at the expense of the weaker brethren, they are told to take heed lest they fall; not from salvation, not yet from their position of strength to that of weakness, but it would be from the suffering of God's judgment, as the Israelites' "*fall in the wilderness.*"

- This age is what is known as the age of grace, grace being the way God now deals with men. The age of Christ or of grace is the last age of human history. Therefore, since we are living in the last age, we must heed the warning example of Israel.
- A person can fall, especially if he begins to think that he stands, that is, if he begins to feel safe and secure in his own righteousness.

We today must not think that because the Jews were under the Law that their sins were worse than ours and was therefore dealt with more severely. No, Sin in the church today is far more serious, because we have Israel's example to learn from, and even living at this time "*at the end of the ages.*" The believer who thinks they can stand may fall, but the believer who flees will be able to stand because we have learned from bad examples!

**10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. As Paul put it...

3. Temptation can be resisted. God will help you resist it (v. 13).

### IV. Five Ways God Will Help You Resist Temptation:

1. Recognize the people and situations that give you trouble.
2. Run from anything that you know is wrong.
3. Choose to do what is right.
4. Pray for God's help.
5. Seek for friends who can help you.

There is a way to escape temptation, but to escape temptation the believer must know three great truths.

- a. All temptation is common to man. And therefore, those who have overcome it will tell you how to overcome it! You're not starting from scratch; you're starting from someone else's experience.
- b. God is faithful: He limits the temptation.
- c. God provides: God's way of escape is made just for you, and it's the best way.

Paul is about to show that trials and temptations will be proportionate to our strength. "**Common to man**" means normal problems. This means a wonderful thing: some men have already overcome it. Yes, many fell, caved in; but some demonstrated the will and energy to overcome it. God permits us to be tempted, but, still, whatever the problem, God is faithful! He knows what we can handle; what we can take; what we can bear; and the exact time of escape from the problem. Therefore, He limits every single temptation within our limits. It will never be above what we are able to suffer. He's built us for perfection. He's built us to last! Our frame may

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be frail, but our inner man is stronger than we think. He always provides a way to escape. He always gives us the strength to turn, and flee from it, or else the energy and strength to fight and overcome the temptation when it's persistent! Our way of escape is always in Him!

## SUMMARY:

Paul tells the Believers that when you run in a race, all run to receive a prize, so run with expectancy. The athletes who took part in the games trained hard and the winner would receive a corruptible crown, but we Christians would look forward to an incorruptible crown that's eternal. We are not to run with uncertainty (hesitation or doubt, but with purpose in every step. Our finish line is Heaven. Fight not as a boxer who is shadowboxing; hitting air. You have an opponent, and if you're fighting an enemy, aim at the one you're fighting with the Word of God! You're fighting to win! Keep your body under subjection, so you want to be found at a fault or unfit (9:24-27).

Israel had the cloud of God's presence and guidance. When the people passed through the Red Sea they were freed of the enslavements of Egypt (through *baptism—both in sea and cloud v.2*). God gave Israel Moses, the leader they needed to reach the Promised Land. Israel partook of the food and water that God provided. He took care of their daily necessities. It was Jesus who was guiding and providing for Israel through its wilderness journey toward the Promised Land. (*Jesus was there with them as a mighty Rock of spiritual refreshment v.4*). However, what happened to most of the people is tragic. There were over two million Jews who stepped out to follow God to the Promised Land, but only two made it (10:1-5).

### Bad examples of Israel's sins: (10:6-10)

1. They lusted after evil things - (v.6, Num. 11:4) They wanted the things back in Egypt.
2. They worshiped idols - (v.7, Ex. 32:6) - The golden calf worshiped in the wilderness.
3. They committed immorality - (v.8, Num. 25:1-9) - Baal worship and sexual immorality.
4. They tested God's patience - (v.9, Num. 21:6) - Israelites spoke against God and Moses.
5. They murmured - (v.10, Num. 16:41-49) - Complained about Moses and Aaron.

<sup>5</sup>11 These things happened to them as examples for us. They are in Scripture to warn those who are living now. The world is near to its end. 12 So be careful, when you think you're standing firm in your faith, you can just as easily fall into sin. 13 All of us have temptations, but God is faithful. He will not allow you to suffer a temptation that is too strong for you to deal with. But when temptation happens, God will also make a way of escape. He will do this so that it does not defeat you (10:11-13).

Therefore, flee from idolatry! (10:14). We need to speak to those capable of making wise judgment (10:15).

## APPLICATION:

There are enough bad examples in God's Word that can keep us from making the same mistakes. Our strength in overcoming temptations should not be fleshly strength. It should be the inner strength to say no, when we place Christ first, and thereby getting that inner strength to overcome the temptation. Pray, cast down the enemy, and thank God continuously.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/1-corinthians-lbw.htm>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

