

Hello. /We will begin our 9<sup>th</sup> lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /The message today is from 1 Corinthians 10. /The title of chapter 10 is “Take as an example.” /First, nurture with spiritual gifts. Verses 1-4. /Second, verses 5-13, take life in the wilderness as an example.

/Third, verses 14-22, flee from idolatry. /Fourth, verses 23-33, the matter of eating food offered to idols. /Paul speaks of the general rules concerning food offered to idols. /He presents his life as an example for this.

/Verses 1-4, nurture with spiritual gifts.

/Verses 1-4. Let us read. /For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

/Paul remembers the fact that the Israelites who left Egypt passed through the wilderness. /He says, “That our fathers were all under the cloud.” /The word “all” appears four times in this passage.

/All of the Israelites left Egypt, and all of them, by God’s miracle, participated in spiritual grace. /However, not everyone entered the land of Canaan. /The word “cloud” in “Our fathers were all under the cloud” symbolizes God’s protection and presence.

/When the Israelites passed through the wilderness, God used a cloud to shield them from the sun’s heat. /Furthermore, God was with the people of Israel, and he guided them with a pillar of cloud.

/The verse says, “Passed through the sea.” /The first obstacle the Israelites faced when they exited Egypt was the Red Sea, and the verse refers to their crossing of the sea. /In front of them, the Red Sea blocked their way, and behind them, the Egyptian army was chasing them. They were on the verge of being killed.

/In other words, there were dangers in front of and behind Israel. /But God made Moses pray. /God told Moses to point his staff to the Red Sea.

/God parted the Red Sea, and the Israelites crossed through the dry land of the Red Sea. /God, in his almighty power, guided them.

/Verse 2 says, “All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.” /When it says “into Moses,” it means they were united with Moses. /Moses is God’s servant who guides the Israelites.

/God raised up a leader and used him to guide the Israelites. /So when it says “into Moses,” it means they were living in unity with Moses. /It also says, “Baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.”

/The cloud symbolizes the presence of God. /The Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land, and they were baptized there. /The Baptist Church claims that a person's body must be submerged in water for them to be baptized.

/Baptism in Greek is "baptizo," and the word carries two meanings. /It means "to submerge." /It also means "to wet" or "to wash." /Baptism started from the Old Testament times.

/Therefore, baptism doesn't have to take the form of baptism by complete immersion in water. /When John the Baptist baptized people in the Jordan River, the crowds that gathered there did not ask, "What new principles will arise?" but they were baptized as it was.

/The Israelites' baptism in the Red Sea means /1. The Israelites washed themselves of the habits they had in Egypt. /2. It means the people relied on God in a more intimate way. /3. The believers were refined to be cleansed.

/Verse 3 says, "All ate the same spiritual food." /In the wilderness, the Israelites ate the manna that God gave them. / "Manna" is bread from heaven, and it also symbolizes Jesus Christ.

/God gave them manna for two reasons. /He gave it to them as food for their bodies, /and another reason is for them to accept Christ, who is the spiritual food, with their spirit, to live eternally in Jesus.

/Verse 4 says, "All drank the same spiritual drink." /When the Israelites were about to die of thirst in the wilderness, God struck a rock and gave them water. /The rock symbolizes Christ.

/This teaches us that believers must drink the spiritual drink for their souls to have life. / "Spiritual drink" also refers to Jesus Christ. /Whoever drinks the spiritual drink of Christ will not thirst again.

/The reason is inside their stomach, a spring of water of eternal life wells up. /Drinking the spiritual drink relieves someone of thirst, and it satisfies the person, makes him glad, and brings him to life. /This is living a satisfied and pleasurable life through the work of spiritual water. /When we drink the water of this world, we thirst again.

/However, whoever drinks the water that Jesus Christ gives us will never thirst again. /The reason is spring water of eternal life wells up within. /The second half of verse 4 says, "For they drank from the spiritual Rock." /The Israelites drank water in the wilderness at Rephidim and Kadesh. /Exodus 17:1-7. /Numbers 20:10. /The "Rock" symbolizes Jesus. /Christ, in spirit, followed them and guided them. /He gave them spiritual food and drink to bring their souls to life.

/Verses 5-13. Take life in the wilderness as an example.

/Verse 5 starts with “Nevertheless.” /In verses 1-4, the Israelites passed through under God’s special grace, protection, and miraculous grace. /The verse begins by saying “Despite the amazing power and grace that God showed them.”

/Despite these things, “with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.” /The people of Israel, who received God’s great power and grace, should have lived as faithful people of God, /but they didn’t.

/In verse 5, we learn two things. /First, the people who are rescued by grace and miracles still sin and perish. /Second, even if most sin, God does not delight in them and he overthrows them.

/Paradoxically, this word means if a few of them stand in the truth, God will delight in them and save them. /Jeremiah 5:1. /If most of the people leave the truth to sin, God does not delight. /God abandons them. /Therefore, the truth does not lie in the majority.

/Verse 6. /Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

/The Israelites of the Old Testament times who lived in the wilderness are an example for all believers, a lesson to us all. /Here, it says, “That we might not desire evil as they did.” /Sin is following the pleasures of the flesh. There is a saying that people will go as far as climbing a cliff in order to sin.

/However, Moses preferred to suffer with the people of God than to enjoy the temporary pleasures of sin. /Hebrews 11:25. /The pleasures of sin are fleeting, and they result in God’s judgment. /The representative judgments of the Old Testament are the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah and the judgment of the people of Noah’s time.

/What are the four sins of the Israelites after their exodus from Egypt? /First is idolatry. /Next is sexual immorality. /The next sin is the sin of testing God. /The fourth sin is the sin of grumbling.

/Because of these four sins, the Israelites perished in the wilderness. /The Israelites here are the males over the age of 20. /However, Joshua and Caleb entered the land of Canaan. /We will take a closer look at the first sin of idolatry.

/Verse 7. /Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”

/The Israelites were graced by the cloud and the sea, and they ate spiritual food and drank spiritual drink. /The Israelites should have feared God and obeyed his word, but they didn’t.

/Because the people worshiped idols, they perished. /God hates the sin of idolatry the most. /Therefore, if we serve idols today, we will surely perish.

/The second half of verse 7 says, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” /This verse is an application of Exodus 32:6. /After the Israelites made the golden calf and worshiped it, they held an unholy feast.

/The verse says, “Rose up to play.” / “Rose up to play” /means to play like a child. /It especially refers to dancing. /Making the golden calf, the people of Israel played and danced.

/As you learned before, what are the idols of today? /Anything we love more than God or trust more than God is an idol. /Whatever governs us more than God does or whatever we follow more than we follow God is an idol.

/For example, God commanded us not to work on the Sabbath. However, when schools and workplaces tell us to work on the Sabbath and we go out to work, we are being governed by the schools and workplaces more than we are by the word of God.

/That is the modern-day idol. /Going against the commandments and making a profit is giving an offering to an idol. /Therefore, if we follow something when it goes against our conscience of faith, it becomes an idol.

/In the past, people created physical idols and worshiped them, but today, believers serve invisible idols. /The second sin is the sin of sexual immorality.

/Verse 8. /We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

/It says that twenty-three thousand died in one day because of sexual immorality. /Numbers 25:1-9. /It says twenty-three thousand died because of it. /The number twenty-three thousand includes those who died the next day.

/Today, we see Christians perishing because of this sexual sin. /Therefore believers must always be careful not to fall into the sin of sexual immorality. /Jesus said that whoever looks at a woman with lustful eyes has committed adultery.

/Also, James 4:4 says that friendship with the world is adultery. /Thus when believers’ hearts depart from God, they already commit adultery in their hearts. /Please remember that if a believer falls into sexual immorality, God will surely judge him.

/In verse 9, we see the third sin of putting Christ to the test. /The third sin is the sin of putting Christ to the test. /Numbers 21:5-9. /In the wilderness, the Israelites complained and grumbled about the manna. /At first, they said the manna tasted like honey wafers, /but later, they said it tasted like cakes baked with oil.

/Then, in Numbers 21:5, they call the manna “worthless food.” /Because of this, God sent fiery serpents to judge the people. /To test God means to test if God is with us or if he isn’t with us.

/To test God is to test if God’s word is fulfilled or not fulfilled, to have doubt. /Doubting God’s presence and his word of promise means to test God. /There are many who died because they tested the Lord.

/We need to believe the Bible as it is written. /To doubt whether the Bible will be fulfilled as it is written is to test the Lord.

/Fourth, verse 10 talks about the sin of grumbling. / “Grumbling” is the sin of unbelief, the sin of not believing in God’s sovereignty. /God raised up Moses and Aaron and gave them his work. Moses and Aaron did as God told them.

/However, the Israelites grumbled against their leaders, Moses and Aaron. /If we grumble against the leaders God has appointed, then we grumble against God. /We must always claim responsibility for ourselves, and we need to believe in God’s sovereignty.

/Let us take Joseph as an example. Joseph had much reason to complain. /However, in whatever he did, he believed that God allowed it to happen, and he did not grumble. /Joseph did his best in whatever position he was in.

/He was able to sincerely forgive those who did him harm. /He succeeded, but he was not proud. /The reason he was successful is God made him successful. /He did not despair in times of disappointment and failure. /He believed that God was with him.

/Today, many Christians commit the sin of testing God and grumbling against him. /Thus verse 11 says, “Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.”

/Verse 12. /Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

/Whoever thinks he stands has already begun to fall. /We must always mourn about the things we have not become and the things we lack. /If we have seen a little success, we need to know that it is because of God’s grace.

/Whoever believes he stands becomes confident, and he does not trust in God. /God wants us to trust in him alone and look to him alone.

/Verse 13. /No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

/God only allows temptations that cannot overtake us. /Also, our God is a trustworthy God. /He is a faithful God. /Here, “temptation” refers to being lured. /There are two types of temptations.

/The first kind is the kind God gives to his people to refine them. /Another kind of temptation is the result of greed. /Satan uses that greed to bring God’s people into sin.

/But what is important is the fact that all kinds of temptations are under the sovereignty of God. /Furthermore, God does not have a purpose in the temptation itself. /Through these temptations, God wants his people to become mature people of faith.

/That is why God provides a way of escape for us when we are tempted, that we may be able to endure it. /What is the way of escape? /First, it is standing upright according to the word of God. /In order to be victorious, we must find out what we are doing that is against the word of God, repent, and stand upright in the word.

/Second, we need to go forward towards God. /We need to earnestly seek God and be in him. /Then God will help us and his almighty power will bring us victory over our temptations.

/Also, when we are tempted in multiple ways, we must believe that God gives us only what we can handle and believe that we can be victorious. /Next, we must believe that God allows us to be tempted so that we may be blameless and lack nothing.

/Temptations given to the believer are given in grace and blessing. /Without temptation, the believer’s character is not made. /Therefore, when we meet trials, we must count it as joy. /James 1:2-3. /God has selected what is best and has given it to us.

/God does it to give us better things. Thus we must count it as joy. /Even if the believer is tempted because of his greed, /God desires to fix what he is lacking.

/God wants for us to look to the cross, sincerely repent, and receive the guidance of the Holy Spirit. /He wants us to escape from our chronic habits and sins and become blameless.

/Also, when we face temptations, we must be patient and endure. /And we need to go into the way of escape. /God will surely prepare a way of escape. /However, we must not try to solve things in human ways. /We must stand upright in the word of God, repent, and draw closer to God.

/Verses 14-22 teach us to flee from idolatry. /Whatever sin we bump into, we must fight against it to the point of bleeding. /In the Bible, there are two sins that we must flee in order for us to win.

/First is the sin of sexual immorality, and the second is the sin of idolatry. /Someone may not want to do it, but if he draws closer to the temple of idols, he may find himself sinning.

/Verses 16-17. /The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

/Whoever participates in Communion participates in the flesh and blood of Christ. /That is why Communion means becoming united with Christ to become one body. /But whoever eats and drinks what is offered to idols participates in that sacrifice. /For this reason, whoever eats food sacrificed to idols is united with the devil.

/Verse 18 says, “Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?” /These people are the people of Israel. /In the past, the Israelites did not live in faith, but they ate the food offered to idols. /This is participating in the altar of idols. /The verse reminds us of this history.

/Whoever eats the sacrifices to idols does not say “No” to participating in the feast of idols. /Similar to how a person who partakes in Communion participates in Christ, /whoever eats the sacrifice of idols participates in the altar of idols. /That is why believers, as we have already learned, must not eat food offered to idols.

/Verses 19-20. /What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.

/Here, Paul explains what an idol is and what food offered to idols is. /The truth is according to what we learned in 1 Corinthians 8:4, idols have no real existence, for they are merely stone and wood.

/But what is serious is that idolaters worship the devil through these idols. /Therefore, eating the food offered to idols means participating in the altar of idols and being participants with the devil.

/That is why in verse 20, Paul says to the believers in Corinth, “I do not want you to be participants with demons.”

/By participating in the Lord’s Communion, we believers are participants with the Lord’s body and blood. Then how are we to eat the food of idols and serve demons who are behind these idols? /We must never partake in both the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

/Verse 22. /Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

/By eating and drinking what is offered to idols, we provoke the Lord. /This will lead to us being punished by the powerful Lord.

/Verses 23-33 deal with the matter of eating food offered to idols.

/Verses 23-24. /“All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

/Just because something is right doesn’t mean it is helpful. /Many things that are right may not be helpful to others. /Therefore it is important that we build up. /To build up means to help others.

/If something is right but it does not help others, we believers must not do it. /However, if something concerns the truth, we must go through with it. /Believers who are saved must not seek their own good, but the good of their neighbor.

/We first must do what is good for God and his salvation movement, /and we must next do what is good for our neighbors.

/Verse 25. /Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience.

/In this period, the marketplaces of Corinth often sold food that was offered to idols. /Paul says it is okay for us to eat food sacrificed to idols if we unknowingly eat it.

/When God created all things, he created them for good. /Everything belongs to God. /Things in and of themselves are not evil. /That is why it is okay to eat food offered to idols if we did not know that it was offered to idols.

/But if we know that the food was offered to idols and eat it anyway, we are partaking in the table of demons. /By eating this food, we may also wound someone else’s conscience. /What should a believer do when he receives an invitation from a nonbeliever?

/Paul tells us to eat what is set up without raising any question. /However, if the person tells us while we’re eating that the food was offered to idols, we must stop eating. /The reason is we don’t wound our conscience, but we wound the conscience of the one who speaks. Verses 28,29.

/It says we mustn’t eat food sacrificed to idols for the conscience of the other person. /We are people who have the freedom to do anything. /But for other believers, we must control this freedom. /My freedom must not cause another believer to stumble.

/Verse 30. /If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?



/Even if I do something with thankfulness, if it denounces someone else, I should stop doing it.

/Verse 31 is an important verse. /I will read it for you. / “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” /It says that a believer who is saved should work for the good of others. /Next, the believer must do everything for the glory of God. /This is the chief purpose of our lives.

/Although we have the freedom to do anything, /if what we do doesn't glorify God, we must stop doing it. /This does not mean we should give up the truth for the sake of others. /We need to do all things for the glory of God and for the good of others.

/Verses 32-33. /Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

/These verses are not telling us to give up on the truth or to compromise it. /Rather, the verses tell us to respect the opinion of others regarding things that are not sinful. /It is telling us to “give no offense.” /Instead, we should make concessions, become lower, and live in harmony. /In all things, Paul worked for the good of others, and he worked hard to save as many people as he could.

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/This concludes our 9<sup>th</sup> lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /Thank you.