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1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

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LEARNING FROM YOUR PAST

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-11

This chapter presents Israel as an example of spiritual immaturity, overconfidence, and lack of self-discipline.

- They failed to learn from their past and therefore repeated it over and over, and over, and over.
- Some in Corinth—like the ancient Israelites and many Christians today—thought, because they had professed faith, gone to church, and partook of some ordinance, they could live as they pleased.

A BIT OF HISTORY

- A perfect Old Testament example of believing the false notion that one can be saved and then live a faithless, God-less life can be seen in what happened to the Jews' ancestors in the wilderness long ago.
- The book of Exodus contains the record of their miraculous escape from slavery in Egypt by the intervention of God (see **Exodus 1-14**).
- What happened? They died in the wilderness; they never made it to the promised land.

GOD IS ALWAYS GOOD v. 2-5

- God's freeing His people from bondage in Egypt provides countless insights into God's grace and integrity.
- The Israelites were liberated en masse—good, bad, and indifferent.
- God had performed great miracles for all His people: setting them free from slavery, guiding them through a sea, and giving them food and drink in a barren wilderness. Their response . . .

After all this miraculous care, most of the people rebelled against God.

LESSONS FROM THE WILDERNESS

- The Israelites failed to learn from their past.
- A lack of faith can be fatal—for you and your family, friends and neighbors, our nation!
- Believers should not ever desire what God calls evil.
- We rebel against God when we give in to our cravings to put pleasures ahead of service to God.
- Don't let anything come between you and God.

GOD IS NO PARTY ANIMAL v. 7-8

- The Israelites claimed to be worshiping the one true God (**Exodus 32:5**); however, God was dishonored by what they were doing, both by their idol—a golden calf—and then by their “***pagan revelry.***”
- “***Revelry***” refers to drunkenness, singing, shouting, dancing that promotes sexual immorality, aka clubbing!
- Don’t make the mistake of thinking God changed His standard because some professor at college said so!
- Immorality—sexual sin of all flavors—can be fatal.
Num. 25:1-9; Col. 3:5-8

GOD FIRST OR EXPECT THE WORST

SOME FINAL LESSONS LEARNED:

- God wants the first place in our lives.
- Those who claim to be God's people should not test the Lord to see how much they can get away with.
- Grumbling against God will almost always eventually get you a beat down.
- Discontentment and displeasure for what you don't have is the sign of ungratefulness for what you do have. ***Let's learn from the past and not repeat it!***