

## LEARN THE "ISRAEL" LESSON

### 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

"I have not failed 10,000 times. I have not failed once. I have succeeded in proving that those 10,000 ways will not work. When I have eliminated the ways that will not work, I will find the way that will work."

- Thomas Edison

**OVERVIEW:** Paul reminds the church in Corinth of God's dealings with Israel. He does this to warn the church about the dangers of failing to *"run in such a way as to win the prize"* (9:24). But will they learn the "Israel" lesson? Will they humbly look to God for help or drift into temptation?

### **STARK WARNING** (vs1-5)

Israel experienced many blessings:

- Rescued from slavery (vs1-2)
- Sustained both physically and spiritually (vs3-4)
- Accompanied by Christ! (v4)

But...

- Most of their bodies were scattered (v5)

What a stark warning! God's people experienced God's grace and yet most of them did not make it to the Promised Land.

### **LEARN THE LESSON** (vs6-10)

Through this "Stark Warning" the church must learn not to set their hearts on evil (v6). They must not:

- Be idolaters (v7) like Israel (Exodus 32:6)
- Commit sexual immorality (v8) like Israel (Numbers 25:1-2)
- Test the Lord (v9) like Israel (Numbers 21:4-6)
- Grumble (v10) like Israel (Numbers 21:4-6)

After witnessing God's amazing power, (The ten plagues. Crossing the Red Sea. God descending on Mount Sinai. Manna, meat and water in the Wilderness) God's people still went astray, were disobedient and stirred up God's anger. The church in Corinth are in danger also of God's judgement.

### **STAND FIRM** (vs11-13)

If the church at Corinth takes heed of the stark warning and does learn the lesson then they will stand firm!  
Recognising:

- They need help (v12)
- Their situation is common (v13)
- God is faithful (v13):
  - He knows your limits
  - He will give you an exit strategy

### **Questions:**

1. Do my prayers and Bible reading show I recognise I need help, or am I arrogant in my spirituality?
2. What things (maybe good things) could I be tempted to elevate into too high a place in my life? How can I guard against this?
3. Are there any areas in my life where I am being wilfully disobedient and presuming on God's grace?