

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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1 Corinthians 10:1-5, 11-13

August 13, 2017

Our God daily delivers us - leading us out of temptation.

It is usually stated something liked this: *They say God doesn't give you anything more than you can handle...* Have you heard that? Have you said that? Where does this notion come from? Maybe from: ... **God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted (tested) beyond what you can bear.** v. 13b

Is this universal for all people? No! It's a promise to followers of Jesus Christ. Besides it makes it sound like God stands around while you squirm out of it.

Our God daily delivers us - leading us out of temptation.

❖ The temptation to misuse God's forgiveness

- This is a letter addressed to Christians. Addressing a key challenge:
 - ♦ God wants us to be **absolutely confident** we are fully forgiven.
 - His grace daily delivers us from guilt. Baptized into Christ he daily washes us clean in God's sight.
 - Jesus paid for the guilt that haunts - fresh guilt - unknown guilt
 - God wants us to live guilt free - motivated by his love, not guilt!
 - ♦ **Challenge!** Confident we are OK, we think it's OK if we *sin a little*.
 - Christians of Corinth - tempted to join neighbors in sinful pleasures
 - No longer tormented by guilt - tempted to **let desires lead** the way
 - Forgetting: Christ's atonement was paid **to free us** from sin's guilt, punishment, bondage, and control. Freed from living in sin's realm or reign to have real life in God's realm or reign of righteousness.

❖ The temptation to ignore the whole picture

- **No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind.**
 - ♦ We are not unique. We didn't discover pleasure-seeking desires.
 - ♦ These are universal to all humans - passed down from Adam to all:
 - Not just across the globe/cultures - even traveling back in history
- God seeks to deliver us out of temptation by giving us Bible History
 - ♦ Maybe you think you know it (like some kids) - don't need a review
 - ♦ Think again! In every stage of life we recognize sin's temptations
 - ♦ Israel thought: *I'm safe, I'm free to seek pleasure* - **Snap!** the trap
 - ♦ Death, destruction, denied access to the Land of Promise
 - ♦ **It's foolish** to taste and test sin to see if it **still** has the **same impact**.
 - ♦ What seems *cool* without consequence in youth - not the whole picture

- *Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it.* Edmund Burke
 - ♦ *Whoever seeks good finds favor, but evil comes to one who searches for it.* Proverbs 11:27
 - ♦ Examples of faith: *Job is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.* Job 1:8 Those who stand in awe of God avoid evil.

❖ Stand with Christ. Follow him out of harm to life.

- The *Paschal Candle* reminds us that the Pillar of Cloud that led Israel out of Egypt through the Red Sea to God is Christ who leads us through baptism to have the Living God be our God. The 1 we fear - love - trust.
- As Christ led Israel to the test at the Red Sea, then provided a way out
 - ♦ Jesus knows temptations swirl around us. He keeps us in his hands.
 - ♦ He **faithfully** stands by - providing resources to help us.
 - Spirit stirring our faith with Bible passages, warnings, and promises
 - Encouragement from fellow believers - present and in memory
 - Providing spiritual strength and gifts that can even surprise us
 - Sometimes giving us victory. Other times providing an escape route.
 - ♦ And if we fall, he sends rescuers in to call us to repent & restoration.
- Jesus was tempted in every way as we are without sinning. Hebrews 4:15
 - ♦ That means he can empathize with us in our weakness (thought or act)
 - ♦ Return to the confidence of grace - approach him for help & mercy.
 - Help to turn our desires from sinful pleasure to joy in Christ
 - Avoid places of temptation. Go with Christian support.
 - Keep reading Bible History, Scripture, devotions to be equipped.

Under his promises God protects us from trials or temptations that would crush us. He knows us, equips us, and rescues us at just the right time to keep us as his own and renew us in his righteousness.

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