

Intro: Patrick Henry said, *“Give me liberty or give me death!”*

1. Paul message has everything to do with liberty, but Paul wants to make sure that it doesn't lead to death.
 - i. Paul has a lot to say about not causing others to stumble to their harm.
2. We must also avoid those things that will lead to death in our own walk spiritually

Read 1 Cor 10:1-15 and Pray¹

1. We are only going to focus on verses 1-5 because we are going to spend some time this morning looking up some important cross-references in both the Old Testament and in the Gospel of John.

1 Corinthians 10:1 ¹ **Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,**

1. **“Moreover”** ties this back to what was written in Chap 9
 - a. Now Paul is using the Nation of Israel as an example.
 - b. Here's the big picture:
 - i. God granted Israel liberty and freedom from bondage in Egypt
 - ii. But Israel failed to embrace their liberty in the way God had intended.
 - iii. They used their liberty to fulfill their own desires rather than being obedient to what God desired for them.
 - iv. Israel is now an example of what not to do, and how not to act.
2. What is the danger of following in Israel's footsteps?
 - a. 1 Cor 9:27 – being disqualified.
 - b. Paul's not talking about losing your salvation, but he is talking about looking your opportunity to be used by the Lord because of sin and disobedience in your heart and in your life.

¹ Unless otherwise marked, all scriptures taken from the New King James Version. © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Again, let's look at verse 1, Paul says, "all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea"

1. The nation of Israel was shaded and protected by God Himself for it was God who manifested Himself in the form of a cloud that covered them during the day.
 - a. Exodus 13:21–22 ²¹ *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. ²² He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.*
 - b. So we know that God also revealed Himself as a pillar of fire by night.
2. What does this mean that all of Israel was under the cloud? It means that the people were under God's protection.
 - a. That cloud protected them from the desert heat and scorching rays.
 - b. This cloud also led them through the desert; they never had to pray, "*Lord, should we stay here or is it time to go?*"
3. Today we may not see the cloud of God over head protecting us like back in those days, but I know with all my heart that God is protecting us; He is shading us even today.
 - a. Psalm 36:7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.
 - b. Psalm 57:1 *Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by.*
 - c. Psalm 63:7 *Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.*

All of Israel was **under the cloud**, and they **all passed through the sea**.

1. According to Exodus 14, they all passed through the Red Sea when they came out of Egypt.
 - a. That was not the most direct route out of Egypt.
 - b. Had they taken the most direct route along the coast, they could have made it by foot from Egypt to the Promised Land in about 7-11 day.

- c. The problem was that route would have taken them straight through the land of the Philistines.
 - d. And God knew that the Israelites weren't ready for that type of encounter yet.
 - e. So God led them southeast through the Red Sea and across the Sinai Peninsula
2. Note: Some say that the Israelites crossed the Reed Sea, not the Red Sea.
- a. I personally do not believe this. They say that the Reed Sea is only about 18 inches deep and that Israel could have just walked straight through it.
 - b. But the details of the story (Exodus 14) say that waters were divided and that the children of Israel walked on dry land with a wall of water on their right hand and left hand.
 - i. A wall of water! Not a puddle.
 - c. After all of Israel was all the way through, the waters returned to their full depth and it covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them.
 - i. It says that, "*Not so much as one of them remained.*"
 - ii. The children of Israel were miraculously led through the midst of a sea, not a shallow swamp.
 - d. Even if it were the Reed Sea, then it would be quite a miracle that God wiped out the Egyptian army with only 18 inches of water.

1 Corinthians 10:2 ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

- 1. Baptized – means to be identified with.
- 2. The children of Israel were ushered into the presence of the cloud and led through the sea by Moses.
 - a. Of course it was really the Lord doing everything, but it was Moses whom the Lord was using at that time.
 - b. Baptism is about leaving behind the old and entering into something new.

3. The children of Israel were baptized into Moses as they followed him as their leader out of the old life in Egypt
 - a. In the Bible: Egypt is a picture of sin or the sinful life.
4. We can identify with this, not through Moses, but through Christ for we have been baptized into Christ.
 - a. In Christ, we have been delivered from the sinful old life and have entered into a new Spirit-filled life in Christ.
 - b. We haven't entered into our Promised Land yet; that is the eternal life we'll spend with Him in the new Heaven and new Earth.
5. If you want to experience eternal life with God, then you must be baptized into Christ.
 - a. This is the same thing as being born again.
 - b. This is done spiritually by the Holy Spirit when someone repents of their sins and turns to Christ in faith.
 - c. The Holy Spirit baptizes you into the faith.
6. What's more, this is not just something we talk of figuratively or spiritually, but something we do physically; we also water baptize believers in obedience to our Lord's commandment to go and baptize new disciples.
 - a. We'll do so at the end of this month.

1 Corinthians 10:3 ³ all ate the same spiritual food,

1. The same spiritual food – manna
 - a. Exodus 16:4–5 ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. ⁵ And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."
2. Pastor Rick in Okinawa believes that manna is like an onigiri here in Japan.

- a. It's described as a small round substance, the tastes was like wafers made with honey.
 - b. I think it's like a Krispy Kream donuts.
 - i. I'm convinced that fresh baked KK donuts are manna from heaven 😊
 - c. We are not sure what manna was; literally manna meant '*what is it?*'
 - d. We can't find it today b/s it stopped appearing when the children of Israel entered the Promised Land at the beginning of the book of Joshua.
3. Understand: Eating together in the Middle East had a very deep significance.
- a. When you eat some food, your body breaks that food down and uses it to sustain your life.
 - b. If you shared a piece of bread for example with someone, you are both being supplied with energy and life by the same thing making you one with that person through the food you shared.
4. That's the idea here in verse 3, the Israelites were one people through Moses' leadership under the cloud and through the sea
- a. As well as being one people through the food they ate, the manna being spiritual food because it was from heaven.

1 Corinthians 10:4 ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

1. READ Exodus 17:3-6 Water from the rock of Meribah when the rock was struck.
 - a. We know that water is required in order to live, especially in a desert.
2. In our passage, Paul says that the Rock Moses struck was Christ! It was Christ who gave them water.
3. READ Numbers 20:2-13 Water from the rock again.
 - a. On the first occasion, the rock was struck and water spring forth.
 - b. On the second occasion, God gave Moses and Aaron different instructions.
 - i. They were told to speak to the rock.

- ii. But in anger Moses struck the rock in front of the people.
- iii. I believe Moses hit it once and nothing happened because that was not in the instructions. I believe it was Moses opportunity to repent.
- iv. But in his anger, Moses hit the rock a second time and in God's grace and mercy He allowed water to come out for the people's sake, but Moses was in error for what he did.
- v. Moses became disqualified to lead the people into the Promised Land.

4. Important Questions: Do you understand that Christ died on the cross to provide forgiveness of sins?

- a. What sins are forgiven? Is it only sins of the past? What about a sin committed tomorrow or the next day?
- b. In other words, how many times must Christ die in order for our sins to be fully forgiven?
- c. The answer is only Once. From the cross Jesus said, "It is finished".
- d. Nothing else is required in order to cleanse us from our sins. His work on the cross is complete and sufficient in forgiving all sin past, present, and future.
- e. Christ need not return to the cross. He was struck once for the forgiveness of sins, now we need only to come to Him and ask for forgiveness of our sins.
 - i. When we sin, we need only to simply speak to Him and ask that He forgive us and give us the strength not to return to that sin.

5. Do you understand how the water from the Rock applies to us?

- a. God's trying to teach Moses, the Israelites, and you and me how things works according to God's plan in and through Jesus Christ.
- b. Christ was struck once on the cross and that is good enough.

6. When Christ was struck...

- a. It provided the forgiveness of sins to those who would repent and by faith turn to Christ alone.

And through that same rock, the Rock of Jesus Christ comes water.

1. What kind of water? Let's ask the Samaritan woman at the well – John 4
 - a. John 4:13–14 ¹³ *Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”*

2. Then in John 6:35 Jesus said, “*I am the bread of life*” (BTW, that's in relationship to manna) “*he who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*”
 - a. The water that comes from the Rock of Jesus satisfies into eternity.
 - b. This world will leave you dry, sapped, and with a bitter taste in your mouth, but what Jesus provides is refreshing and uplifting; satisfying to the soul.

3. Turn to John 7:37-39 During the Feast of Tabernacles
 - a. “While the morning sacrifice was being prepared, a special procession was organized for the joyous water-drawing ceremony that was rich in symbolism and high drama. The procession of faithful worshippers began at the Temple, led by a priest who carried a golden pitcher. When the Temple procession reached the pool of Siloam, the priest filled his golden pitcher with water. Journeying back to the Temple, the cortege would pass through the Water Gate (its name being derived from the ceremony). The water would then be poured out at the altar.”
 - i. This was done to remember & thank God for the water from the rock in the desert.
 - b. While these events were taking place, the people were reciting the Hallel.
 - i. The Hallel (which means Praise) is reciting Psalms 113-118.
 - ii. Ps 118:22 - Jesus is the chief cornerstone (Acts 4:10-12)
 - c. In this setting, Jesus would cry out, “*If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the scriptures has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.*”

4. Rev 21:6 The words of Jesus saying, "*It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*"

a. In Revelation 22:1 We find a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from Christ in the new heaven and new earth.

1 Corinthians 10:5 ⁵ But with most of them [speaking of the Israelites] God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

1. God was not pleased because they lacked faith and obedience.

Conclusion

1. Would God be pleased with us?

2. We are to have **Faith**.

a. With faith is **Trust**, they are synonym words in the Christian faith.

b. An expression of trust is **Submission**.

c. True submission involves **Obedience**.

3. As Christians, we are to have Faith, Trust, Submission, and Obedience.

a. If we are missing any one of these, then we don't have any of them because they are all related and dependent on the other.

b. Let us be Christians who have Faith, Trust in the Lord, are submitted to the Lord's ways and plans for our life, and may we obediently walk in the Lord's word and ways!