

The Choice Is Yours

Text : **I Corinthians 10: 1-13**

S # 1

INTRODUCTION :

A. Our text is taken from the replies section of I Corinthians.

S # 2

1. The first six chapters of the book are instructions to correct reported problems.
 - a. Failure to achieve spiritual growth
 - a. Partisanship and failure to be surrendered
 - b. Tolerating immoral activity in the church
 - c. Consequences of lawsuits and immorality
2. Beginning with chapter seven the Apostle starts answering their questions.
 - a. Some of the questions are difficult, but he gives direct, comprehensive answers.
 - b. Chapter **7: 1** – Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman, but because of immorality, each man...
 - c. Chapter **7: 25** – Now concerning virgins, I have no command of the Lord, but ...
 - d. Chapter **8: 1** – Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we have knowledge.

** Our text is included in this section of answers and specifically as refers to idols.*

B. The Apostle is warning the brethren in Corinth, not to dance too close to the fire.

1. Some had knowledge that food offered to idols was nothing.
 2. They were participating in the feasts with idol worshippers to get the free food.
 3. They thought they were so strong they couldn't be drawn back into idolatry.
- Vs. 12 .. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.**

S # 3

* C. No Christian ever lives long enough or gets strong enough so he cannot or will not sin or so strong he can or will not fall away.

S # 4

1. Peter vowed faithfulness to Jesus even if it cost him his life.
Luke 22: 33-34 But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" ³⁴ And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."
2. Peter did exactly as Jesus had prophesied.
Luke 22: 60- 16 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times."
3. Given the right time and circumstances, there is **NO** sin you are not capable of doing.

D. EVERY Christian is involved in an ongoing spiritual war.**S # 5**

1. **Eph. 6: 10-12** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.
¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- a. We must always stay aware that we are in a struggle for our eternal soul.
- b. Our enemies are often unseen, but always there.

2. Satan and his angels are always on the offensive.

S # 6

I Pet. 5: 8 – Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour

3. They use underhanded tactics.

- a. They use hidden traps that kill. .

S # 7

II Tim. 2: 25-26 ... with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

- b. The agents of Satan appear to be so very good.

S # 8

II Cor. 11: 13-14 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

What chance does a man have ? Satan is more powerful, more experienced and completely unfettered by any value system. He is a determined enemy with who is focused on our destruction. How can a Christian stand ?

- I. We must take the struggle seriously.
- II. We are not alone in our struggles.
- III. God has our back.
- IV. We must take the way of escape.

S # 9**I. We must take the battle against sin seriously.****S # 10****A. The cost of freedom is eternal vigilance.**

1. Vs. ¹² – Therefore let him who thinks he stands **take heed** that he does not fall
2. The soldier who survives in a war zone learns to see and identify danger.

ILL. – *Two years after the war a Vietnam vet could not work in a factory area with fishing twine stretched across an opening.*

B. The Christians can never let his guard down. (*You're not paranoid if they're after you.*)

1. **I Pet. 5: 8 – Be sober, be vigilant, ... the devil ... seeking someone to devour** **S # 11**

2. Satan uses people and things that we do not suspect.

a. Friends invite us to join them in activities which are not wholesome.

b. Non-Christian family member invites us to visit on Sunday.

* *We convince ourselves that we are strong, we can handle it ... it's only once ... twice*

C. Jesus told us that we should fear going to Hell. It's a horrible place. **S # 12**

1. **Luke 12: 4-5** I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

2. Hell is much more to be feared than physical death.

3. Hell is described in horrible terms :

a. **Luke 13: 28 – In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth**

b. **Luke 16: 23, 28** ... The rich man described it as a place of torment.

c. **Mark 9: 48 – .. where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched ..**

II. You are never alone in your struggle.**S # 13****A. Many think they are :**

1. They are all alone in their struggle. *Old spiritual* : “*Nobody knows the trouble I ..*”

2. “Other Christians don't have to deal with this kind of trails.” (*Need more contact*)

* *When you think this, Satan is speaking directly to your heart. Evict him !*

B. Everyone is tempted.

1. **I Cor. 10: 13 – No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man;**

2. Temptation is not sin; our Lord Jesus was tempted.

a. **Matt. 4** ... Satan personally tempted Jesus.

b. Our intercessor can help us because He understands our struggles.

Heb. 4: 15 – ... One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

C. Temptation only becomes sin when our heart decides to commit the act. **S # 14**

1. ALL sin begins in the heart of man.

Remember : **Prov. 23: 7 – For as he thinks within himself, so he is.**

2. All sin fits into only a few basic categories.

S # 15

a. **I John 2: 16** – For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

b. The fleshly nature causes the heart to desire.

c. That is why Paul tells us to “set” our minds on things above. **Col. 3: 2**

D. All of us will battle against the flesh as long as we are on the earth.

S # 16

1. **James 2: 14** – But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

2. The fish is not hooked until he takes the bait.

S # 17

James 2: 15 – Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

3. **Rom. 7: 14** ... Our flesh is drawn to sin even when our spirit is repulsed by it.

III. As you struggle, God has your back. He is faithful.

S # 18

A. Our God is faithful to His family. He keeps His promises.

S # 19

1. **I Cor. 10: 13** – ... God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, ...

2. God has promised that He will NEVER let us down.

S # 20

Heb. 13: 5-6 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,” ⁶ so that we confidently say, “The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?”

B. God has promised to aide us in our battle against Satan. (*Never alone*)

S # 21

1. **Heb. 2: 11** – For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

2. He protects us

S # 22

I Pet. 1: 5 – reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

3. He helps keep us from stumbling.

S # 23

Jude 24 – Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

C. By His sovereignty, God limits the temptation and trials Satan can use.

S # 24

1. **I Cor. 10: 13** – God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,

2. This principle is established in the book of Job.
 - a. Satan asked permission to take away all of Job's possessions. *God limited him.*
 - b. Satan came back and asked permission to afflict his body. *God limited him.*
3. God was aware of Job's life and He's aware of yours.
4. You are never out of God's presence.
 - a. **Psa. 139: 7-12** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea.
 - b. God's presence is to protect His children. *Christians are comforted by it.*

S # 25

IV. God provides a way out of all temptations, but we must choose to take it.

A. When we are trapped or about to be overwhelmed, God intervenes. S # 26

1. **II Pet. 2: 9** – ... the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,
2. **I Cor. 10: 13** – but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. S # 27
3. God rescues us by providing a way of escape, but we must choose to use it.

B. Notice the way of escape is not the removal of the temptation.

1. The way of escape comes “with the temptation.”
2. God's objective in providing the way of escape is “so that you will be able to endure it.” S # 28

ILL – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego escaped by passing through the furnace. Dn3
Daniel escaped by sleeping with the lions. Dan. 6

3. Temptations are common to man. (*It's part of life on planet earth.*)
 - a. Every person faces them. *You will face trials.*
 - b. The Christian has help in the struggle.

C. God provides many aides for the Christian. S # 29

1. Doctrine can assist us in overcoming temptation. *Know the will of God.*
2. Knowing the trials of others can help us overcome. *Knowing about Joseph.*
3. Remembering what has been done for us. *Gratitude strengthens resolve.*
4. Knowing that we can overcome strengthens us.
5. Considering the consequences of failure causes us to resist more strongly.

D. The Christian must learn and develop his mental discipline.**S # 30**

1. We must keep our hand firmly on the tiller of our minds. (*Satan tries to alter course.*)

a. **Col. 3: 2** – **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**

(*God commands it so we know we can do it.*)

b. **Phil. 4: 8** – Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **dwell** on these things.

S # 31

2. One of the key factors in successful mental discipline is controlling input.

S # 32

a. **“Garbage in garbage out.”** It true for our minds as well as our computers.

b. Research is showing a direct correlation between violent media and violence.

c. Americans obsessed with sex as a result of exposure to bed-hopping TV shows.

E. The church is a buttress against temptations.**S # 33**

1. The assemblies are **R&R** from the battle against Satan. (*Better than sales meetings*)

2. Christians band together to strengthen each other.

Gal. 6: 2 – **Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.**

3. Christians provide accountability to each other.

S # 34

a. **James 5: 16** – **Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed.**

b. Once sin has been confessed, there is accountability. (*Like sponsor in AA*)

CONCLUSION :**S # 35**

A. We must take the battle very seriously.

B. When tempted, know that you are not alone.

C. Never forget that God has your back.

D. You never have to sin; **the choice is yours.**

1. God is protecting you.

2. God is limiting Satan.

3. You have a way of escape.

**** Will you flee temptation or dance by the fire ?**

INVITATION :

The choice is yours.

S # 36

Lesson Text :**I Corinthians 10: 1-13**

1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; **2** and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; **3** and all ate the same spiritual food; **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. **5** Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

6 Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. **7** Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." **8** Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. **9** Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. **10** Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. **11** Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. **12** Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. **13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.