

“Be Vigilant!”
1 Corinthians 10:1-6

Introduction:

1. As We Head Back To 1 Corinthians 10 This Morning:
 - And Resume Our Study Of This New Testament Letter:
 - I Want You To Think Back With Me To Some Of The Recent Tragedies That Have Impacted Our Country!
 - Some Tragedies Are Natural:
 - Like Hurricane Sandy - Thousands Are Still Being Impacted By This Storm That Ended Over 2 Months Ago - Many Are Still Without Power!
 - Other Tragedies Are Caused By The Sinfulness Of Man:
 - Like The Horrific Shooting At Sandy Hook Elementary School In Connecticut, The Week Before Christmas!
 - It Is These Kinds Of Tragedies:
 - That Really Causes Us To Think & To Respond!
 - We Respond In Anger - A Righteous Anger!
 - We Respond In Fear - For Our Own Families / Community!
 - We Respond In Compassion - For Those Directly Impacted!
 - And We Often Respond In Doubt!
 - Might Say:
 - I Can't Imagine How Someone Could Do That!
 - Or - Personalizing It - I Would Never Do That!
2. Sometimes We Forget That:
 - Sin - Any & All Sin - Is Just As Tragic In Our Lives As Well!
 - It Often Affects / Impacts Other People!
 - But It Always Affects / Impacts Our Walk & Relationship With God!
 - And So Paul, In 1 Corinthians 9:
 - Described His Own Method In Dealing With Tragedy Of Sin! He Took It Seriously! And He Knew That Without A Constant Vigilance, He Too Could Fall!
 - Why He Wrote In 9:26-27 - “I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: / But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway!”
 - Paul Was Going To Do Everything He Could Do:
 - By God's Grace & Through God's Power!
 - To Remain Vigilant - So That He Would Not Become A “Castaway” - Or Someone Who Is No Longer Useful To The Lord, Because Of The Tragedy Of Sin!
3. But Many Of The Members Of The Corinthian Church:
 - Had A Different Response!
 - Their Response Was One Of Pride!
 - And Instead Of Listening To & Learning From Paul's Example:
 - They Too Might Have Said:
 - “I Can't Imagine How Someone Could Sin Like That, Paul!”
 - Or - “I Would Never Sin Like That, Paul!”
 - And Instead Of Having The Right Kind Of Humility:
 - They Felt Spiritually Invincible!
 - So, Here In Chapter 10, Paul Tells Them - 10:12 - “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall!”
 - This Kind Of Spiritual Failure Can Happen To Any Of Us!
 - It Can Happen To Me, Paul Says!
 - And It Can Happen To You!
 - So:
 - ***All Of Us Need To Be Vigilant, Because All Of Us Are Vulnerable!***
 - ***To The Tragedy Of Sin!***
 - All Of Us Need To:
 - Run & Fight!
 - And Have Devotion / Diligence / Discipline!
 - Because Of The Danger Of Sin & Pride!
 - We Must All Remain Vigilant, Because We Are All Vulnerable!

- To The Tragedy Of Sin!
- And In 10:1-6, Paul Explains To Us Why!

* In Verse 1, We Find:

1. The Exhortation To God's People!

- 10:1a - "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant!"
 - The Exhortation To God's People:
 - Is An Exhortation To Watchfulness!
 - To Exhort Means To Encourage & To Motivate Someone!
 - So - Here - Paul Is Exhorting / Encouraging / Motivating All Of Us To Remain Vigilant Against Sin In Our Lives & In Our Church!
- An Exhortation Of Concern!
 - "Moreover!"
 - This Single Word Ties Chapter 10 With Chapter 9!
 - Paul Was Concerned For His Own Condition!
 - He Did Not Want To End Up Being A "Castaway"
 - So He Was Going To Run & Fight & Exercise Discipline In Order To Overcome Sin!
 - But Paul Was Also Concerned For Our Condition As Well!
 - He Did Not / Does Not Want Any Christian To Become A "Castaway" - And Become Useless In The Service Of The Lord!
 - So - We Need To Listen To His Concern!
- An Exhortation With Compassion!
 - "Brethren!"
 - A Word Of Love & Tenderness & Relationship!
 - Paul Was One Of Them! They Were All In This Together!
 - And So Are We! We Need One Another To Help Us Remain Devoted / Disciplined In Our Christian Lives!
 - So - We Need To Learn From His Compassion!
- An Exhortation To Consider!
 - "I Would Not That Ye Should Be Ignorant!"
 - Paul Wants Us All To Remember Something:
 - That He Is About To Explain From Our Old Testament History!
 - It Is A Lesson That We Need To Learn:
 - So That We Will Not End Up Like Them & So Many Others! "Castaways" In The Service Of God!
- This Exhortation To God's People:
 - Is Our Exhortation As Well!
 - The Lesson We Need To Learn & Consider This Morning Is This:
 - We Must All Remain Vigilant, Because We Are All Vulnerable – To The Tragedy Of Sin!

* Also In Verse 1, We Find:

2. The Experience Of God's People!

- What Is It That We Are To Remember & Consider?
- 10:1b-4 - "How that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; / 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; / 3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; / 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ!"
 - The Experience Of God's People:
 - Is An Experience Of Wonders! God's Wonders!
 - Do You Remember All Of The Amazing Events In The Life Of The Children Of Israel, As They Were Leaving Egypt & Heading To The Promised Land?
 - All Of These Incredible Things Actually Happened To Our Spiritual "Fathers" - Our Spiritual Ancestors!
 - What Did They Experience?
 - Not Just One Or A Couple Of Them - Like Moses & Aaron! But ALL Of Them!
- The Wonder Of God's Presence!
 - 10:1 - "All Our Fathers Were Under The Cloud!"
 - The Cloud That Went Before Them & Led Them Out Of & Away From Egypt! (In Exodus 13)
 - The Cloud That Went Behind Them & Kept The Egyptians From Coming Near The Israelites! (In Exodus

- 14)
- The Cloud That Even Was Around & Above Them! (According To Psalm 105:39)
 - This Cloud Represented The Presence Of God To Them!
 - God Was With Them Wherever They Went!
 - And The Nature Of His Presence Was Amazing!
 - What An Experience! What Else?
 - The Wonder Of God's Protection!
 - 10:1 - "The Cloud"
 - Was What God Used:
 - To Protect His People From The Egyptians!
 - To Protect His People From The Heat Of The Desert Sun!
 - To Protect His People From Getting Off Course & Into Even More Dangerous Territory!
 - This Cloud Represented The Protection Of God To Them!
 - And The Nature Of His Protection Was Amazing!
 - What An Experience! Imagine If You Where There!
 - How Would You Have Responded? What Else?
 - The Wonder Of God's Power!
 - 10:1 - "And All Passed Through The Sea!"
 - Again, Not Just One Or Two Of Them, But All Of Them Experienced This!
 - When God Showed His Power To Rescue Them & To Save Them From The Egyptians!
 - How Did God Show His Power To Save?
 - By Dividing The Red Sea, So That There Was A Wall Of Water On Their Right Hand & A Wall Of Water On Their Left Hand & They Were Able To Walk Across On Dry Land!
 - And Then, By Destroying The Egyptian Army In The Middle Of The Red Sea, As They Attempted To Cross & Overtake Them!
 - This Was A Display Of The Power Of God To Them!
 - His Power To Save!
 - And The Nature Of His Power Was Amazing!
 - Exodus 14:30-31 Says That: "The Lord Saved Israel That Day" & "Israel Saw That Great Work Which The Lord Did" & "The People Feared The Lord, And Believed The Lord, And His Servant Moses!"
 - What An Experience! What Else?
 - The Wonder Of God's Plan!
 - 10:2 - "And Were All Baptized Unto Moses In The Cloud And In The Sea!"
 - When Israel Reached The West Bank Of The Red Sea, They Had A Choice To Make!
 - Remain & Fall To The Egyptians!
 - Go Forward & Follow The Lord & His Servant Moses! Through A Cloud & Through The Red Sea! An Act Of Faith!
 - But When They Followed Moses:
 - They Became "Baptized Unto Moses!"
 - They Recognized That Moses Was God's Chosen Leader For Them, Voluntarily Brought Themselves Under The Authority Of Moses & The Lord!
 - To Learn From & To Obey!
 - And In Doing So - They Became A Great Nation!
 - The Great Nation Promised To Abraham, Isaac & Jacob Hundreds Of Years Before!
 - This Was The Process Of God's Plan For Them!
 - And The Nature Of His Plan Was Amazing!
 - What An Experience!
 - How Would You Have Responded? Do You?
 - What Else?
 - The Wonder Of God's Provision!
 - 10:3 - The Provision Of Food - "And Did All Eat The Same Spiritual Meat!"
 - What Did They Eat? At First, They Didn't Know!
 - They Called It "Manna" - "What Is It?"
 - It Was Bread From Heaven!
 - Psalm 78:25 Calls It "Angels' Food!"
 - And They Ate It For 40 Years In The Wilderness!
 - And It Was Spiritual!

- What Does This Mean?
- Spiritual In It's Source!
 - A Miracle! Came From God!
- Spiritual In It's Symbol!
 - Deuteronomy 8:3 - "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live!"
- Spiritual In It's Significance!
 - It Points To Jesus Christ - The Bread Of Life!
- What Else Did God Provide?
- 10:4 - The Provision Of Water - "And Did All Drink The Same Spiritual Drink!"
- What Did They Drink?
 - It Was Water From A Rock! A Rock In The Desert!
 - And They Drank The Water From That Rock For Nearly 40 Years In The Wilderness!
 - 10:4 - "For They Drank Of That Spiritual Rock That Followed Them!"
 - After Moses Struck The Rock, Psalm 78:6 Says That: "He Brought Streams Also Out Of The Rock, And Caused Waters To Run Down Like Rivers!"
 - The Water Flowed & Kept Flowing For Nearly 40 Years!
 - It Only Stopped Flowing One Other Time / God Again Provided!
 - Isaiah 48:21 - "And They Thirsted Not When He Led Them Through The Deserts: He Caused The Waters To Flow Out Of The Rock For Them!"
 - How Could This Happen?
 - It Was A Spiritual Drink From A Spiritual Rock!
 - What Does This Mean?
 - Spiritual In It's Source!
 - A Miracle! Came From God!
 - Spiritual In It's Significance As Well!
 - 10:4 - "That Rock Was Christ!"
 - It Points To Jesus Christ - Who Offers: "A Well Of Water Springing Up Into Everlasting Life!"
- This Was How God Provided For Them!
 - And It Was Amazing! What An Experience!
- This Experience Of God's People:
 - Is Our Experience As Well!
 - We Too Have Experienced:
 - The Wonder Of God's Presence / Protection / Power / Plan / Provision!
 - Maybe Not As Visible, But Just As Amazing!
 - How Should We Respond!
 - We Must All Remain Vigilant! Because Of All That God Has Done & Continues To Do For Us!

* Then, In Verse 5 We See:

3. ***The Effect On God's People!***

- 10:5 - " But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness!"
 - The Effect On God's People:
 - Was An Effect Of Wrath! God's Wrath!
 - How Could This Be? How Could This Happen?
 - The Effect Of Their Privileges From God:
 - Even Though They Experienced These Incredible, Amazing, Miraculous Wonders From Start To Finish, And For 40 Years In Between:
 - How Did They Respond? How Did These Wonders Impact & Affect Them?
 - It Is Clear That They Did Not Respond Properly!
 - ***Psalm 78:12-22!***
 - They: Sinned / Provoked / Tempted / Believed Not / Trusted Not In The Lord!
 - What A Tragedy! And Then We Start Thinking:
 - "I Can't Imagine How They Could Do That!"
 - Or - "I Would Never Do That!"
 - But: How Have We Responded / Do We Respond To The Wonders Of God In Our Own Lives?

- The Effect Of Their Provoking God:
 - So - “With Many (Even Most) Of Them God Was Not Well Pleased!”
 - How Do We Know That So Many Did Not Respond The Right Way?
 - How Do We Know That God Was Not Pleased With Them?
- The Effect Of Their Punishment By God:
 - “For They Were Overthrown In The Wilderness!”
 - Because Of Their Sin, God Ensured That Many Of Them Died Before They Could Enter The Promised Land!
 - Numbers 14:29-32 - “Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, / Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swore to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. / But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. / But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness!”
- This Effect On God’s People In The Old Testament:
 - Is This The Effect On Us As Well?
 - After All That God Has Done / Continues To Do For Us:
 - Do We Ignore Him?
 - Do We Still Sin / Tempt / Believe Not / Trust Not?
 - Psalm 78:32 Says: “For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works!”
 - Can That Be Said Of You?
 - We Must All Remain Vigilant, Because We Are All Vulnerable – To The Tragedy Of Sin!

* Because In Verse 6, We Discover:

4. The Example Of God’s People!

- 10:6 - “Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted!”
 - The Example Of God’s People In The Wilderness:
 - Is An Example & A Warning To Us All!
 - This Is Why Paul Does Not Want Us Forget This Old Testament History!
 - They Are An Example To Us:
- Of The Wrong Pattern Of Life!
 - “Now These Things Were Our Examples!”
 - Or Types & Patterns!
 - To Learn From Their Mistakes!
 - Through The Children Of Israel In The Wilderness:
 - We Can See What Can Happen:
 - When You Have The Wrong:
 - Affections / Attitudes / Actions!
 - All Of Us Are Vulnerable!
 - So All Of Us Must Remain Vigilant!
 - Again, As We Will See Later In 10:12 - “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall!”
 - Don’t Follow Their Example:
 - And Have The Wrong Pattern In Your Life!
 - Instead - Respond The Right Way To All The Wonders Of God In Your Life!
 - But - They Are Also An Example To Us:
- Of The Wrong Pursuit In Life!
 - “To The Intent We Should Not Lust After Evil Things, As They Also Lusted!”
 - We Need To Learn From Their Mistakes!
 - Of “Lusting” Or “Craving” & “Desiring” & “Pursuing”:
 - The Wrong Things In Life!
 - What Was It That The Children Of Israel Lusted For & Pursued After?
 - Initially, It Was Just Food & Water!
 - Food & Water! How Can That Be “Bad”?
 - It Was “Bad” - Because The Food & Water That They Were Craving Took The Place Of God In Their Lives!
 - Bread & Water Became More Important & More Valuable To Them Than God, Who Promised To Provide For Them!

- Bread & Water Became A Distraction To Them From What Really Mattered!
- And So, For Them, Bread & Water Became A Stumblingblock - And They Sinned!
- Don't Follow Their Example!
 - And Have The Wrong Pursuit In Your Life!
 - Instead - Respond The Right Way To All The Wonders Of God In Your Life!
 - How? By Obeying Matthew 6:33 - "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you!"
 - Don't Let Something That God Has Promised To Provide Become More Important & More Valuable & More Of A Distraction From God Himself!
 - Don't Let Your Physical Needs Take The Priority Over Your Spiritual Needs!
- The Example Of God's People:
 - Is Our Example!

Conclusion:

1. So We Must Learn This Lesson From Their Life!
 - And Instead Of Thinking:
 - "I Can't Imagine How Someone Could Do That!"
 - Or - "I Would Never Do That!"
 - Be Humble & Remember That This Can & Does Happen:
 - To Christians Today!
 - Be Humble & Not Proud!
 - Realize Your Need For God & His Grace & His Strength Every Day! And Go To Him For It!
 - We Must All Remain Vigilant, Because We Are All Vulnerable – To The Tragedy Of Sin!
2. What Wonders Have You Experienced From God As A Christian?
 - Haven't You Experienced, Like The Children Of Israel:
 - His Presence / Protection / Power / Plan / Provision?
 - Maybe Not In The Same Way - But Even Though They Experienced God's Wonders In Some Visibly Amazing Ways, They Still Ignored & Resisted God!
 - Instead:
 - Remember All That God Is & Has Done For You!
 - And Let It Affect You In The Right Way!
 - Respond & Follow The Right Pattern In Your Life!
 - Respond & Have The Right Pursuit For Your Life!
3. Psalm 42:1-2 - "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. / My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God!"
 - Don't Just Thirst After & Desire Physical Things - Things That You Need In This World!
 - Like Bread & Water!
 - This Is Just Living To Survive!
 - Instead, Thirst After & Desire Spiritual Things - After God Himself - What You Need In This World & For All Eternity!
 - Through Jesus Christ!
 - We Must All Remain Vigilant, Because We Are All Vulnerable!
 - To The Tragedy Of Sin!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com