

Sermon Outline September 25, 2016
“Living for God’s Glory” 1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJ)

"The glory of God is a silver thread which must run through all our actions." Thomas Watson

How can we live for God’s glory?

I. Beware of mistaking privilege for performance –

1. Paul starts chapter ten with a short remembrance of Israel’s privilege in the wilderness –

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:1-4 NKJ)

- A. The cloud referenced here is the cloud of God’s presence, the Shekinah glory, God was with them, fighting for them against the Egyptians!*
- B. They were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, meaning they crossed that Red Sea as well as Moses did. The miracle saved them as much as it did Moses!*
- C. They all ate manna, bread from Heaven, they all drank water from a Rock, and Paul says that Rock was spiritually Christ!*

These were Israel’s privileges; and yet, their performance fell short of their privilege –

But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness. (1 Corinthians 10:5 NKJ)

2. Israel’s performance was marred by sin and selfishness –

Notice, Paul’s list of their sins:

:6 They lusted

:7 They were idolaters

:8 They committed sexual immorality

:9 They tempted Christ

:10 They were complainers

3. Israel’s poor performance is an example and warning to us –

Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. (1 Corinthians 10:6 NKJ)

Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (1 Corinthians 10:11-12 NKJ)

These sweet verses are like warning labels: DANGER, DANGER, DANGER!

- A. Christian liberty is not a license to live to fulfil your lusts*
- B. Enjoying Christian privileges: Hearing God’s Word, participating in the Lord’s Supper, enjoying Christian fellowship, these privileges should lead to performance, but they are not the same as performance –*

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1:22 NKJ)

If we hear the Word, but neglect to do it, neglect to live by it, we are not “glorifying God” we are not standing but we are “deceiving ourselves” ... We think we stand, but we fall!

How can we live for God’s glory?

II. It is not what you eat, but what you count and show a special treat –

- 1. Paul starts this next section speaking about TEMPTATION, one of the ways we glorify God is by resisting the temptations of an ungodly world –*

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJ)

- A. Temptation is common*
- B. God provides a way of escape*

- 2. What temptations must we avoid?*

A. Avoid obvious, glaring sins, like the plague –
Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. (1 Corinthians 10:14 NKJ)

How do we avoid such obvious sins?

B. Count what is right and good your DELIGHT and PLEASURE!
Think rightly about the LORD's Supper, especially in
comparison to idolatrous feasts –

I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷ For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread. ¹⁸ Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? ¹⁹ What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? ²⁰ Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. ²² Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He? ²³ All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. (1 Corinthians 10:15-23 NKJ)

One thing I have never seen, and sadly, I admit, I have never thought of before myself, is an "I♥the Lord's Supper t-shirt"
You'll find I♥my poodle bumper stickers, you find t-shirts for every American sports team, we call ourselves FANS, which is short for FANATIC!

Paul in this passage is allowing the eating of meat offered to idols, but he is also condemning the whole-hearted enjoyment of the "cup of demons."

He promotes identifying ourselves with that ONE BREAD –
For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread. (1 Corinthians 10:17 NKJ)

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:35 NKJ)

C. Be careful in regard to more subtle sins; remember eating is allowed, but ...

²⁵ Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; ²⁶ for "the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness."
(1 Corinthians 10:25-26 NKJ)

Remember, even eating can be part of your witness –

If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. ²⁸ But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness." ²⁹ "Conscience, " I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another *man's* conscience? ³⁰ But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for *the food* over which I give thanks? (1 Corinthians 10:27-30 NKJ)

How can we live for God's glory?

III. We glorify God, when we put His glory first, and His glory controls all else we do –

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJ)

1. Be excited about the things of God, Bible study, prayer, church attendance, living according to what is right and good –
He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8 NKJ)
2. Give other things up to God, for His service and glory, or give them up –
 - A. I used to be a runner – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, I could use my running for God's glory
 - B. My friend's parents use to own a bar; they sold it for God's glory!
 - C. We should evaluate everything we do and how we do it by this principle does what I do and how I do it "glorify or honor God?"
 - D. The Lord's Supper is one of those things, am I properly prepared for and excited about it?
 - E. The Lord's Supper shows us what Christ did for and gave up for us, what are we willing to do or give up for Him?

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