

Bodies Scattered In The Wilderness

1 Cor. 10:1-13 (v. 5)

Introduction:

- A. God's marvelous deliverance of Israel. (Vs. 1, 2).
- B. God's wonderful provisions for Israel. (Vs. 3, 4)
- C. God's justifiable displeasure with Israel. (V. 5).
- D. God's pointed *warnings* to us, using Israel as an example. (Vs. 6, 11-12).

Discussion:

- I. The Warning Against *Lusting After Evil Things* (v. 6)**
 - A. Not inherently evil, but made evil by their attitude. (Num. 11:4-10, 18-20).
 - B. Much of our world not inherently evil, but made evil by our attitudes. (Mark 4:19; Luke 8:14)
- II. The Warning Against *Becoming Idolaters* (v. 7).**
 - A. The Golden Calf. (Ex. 32).
 - B. Sensuality, not spirituality, at base of idolatry - "The people ... eat and drink ... play." (Ex. 32:6).
 - 1. Such fast becoming base of modern Christianity.
 - 2. Same quote could apply to modern churches. (Cf. 1 Cor. 11:22, 34).
- III. The Warning Against *Committing Sexual Immorality* (v. 8).**
 - A. Israel, Balaam and Moabites. (Num. 25:1-9; Rev. 2:14).
 - B. Cannot be practiced nor tolerated by Christians. (Rev. 2:20-23; Rom. 1:32).
 - C. Always brings spiritual consequences, often physical. (Cf. Rom. 1:27).
- IV. The Warning Against *Tempting Christ* (v. 9).**
 - A. Israel tried Lord's patience to the limit. (Ex. 17:2, 7; Num. 21:4-6).
 - B. Warns Christians not to provoke Him to jealousy. (1 Cor. 10:21-22).
 - C. Must not temp Christ by seeing how close to sin or how much sin and get away with it.
- V. The Warning Against *Complaining* (v. 10).**
 - A. "Murmuring" (KJV), "complaining" (NKJ), "grumbling" (NIV) mentioned about 40 times in Bible.
 - 1. Was productive only once. (Acts 6:1ff).
 - 2. Was destructive in other cases.
 - B. Israelites were chronic-complainers. (Ex. 16; Num. 14).
 - 1. Proved themselves ungrateful.
 - 2. Provoked the Lord to anger.
 - 3. Provoked Moses to sin. (Num. 20:1-10).
 - C. American Christians often chronic-complainers.
 - 1. As Americans, blessed above all nation, yet complain above all people.
 - 2. As Christians, blessed above all people, yet complain more than many.
 - D. Chronic complainers disruptive at best, destructive at worst.
 - 1. Like "horn blower" at stop sign - show lack of patience, consideration, and responsibility.
 - 2. Like 2 frogs in pond, may be few in number may sound like a million.
 - 3. Like Pharisees, demand much of others and little of themselves. (Matt. 23:4).
 - 4. Like Korah's complaint, it can spread to entire congregation. (Num. 16:11; 41)

Discussion:

- A. Let follow Israelites example of escaping bondage (sin) in being baptized.
- B. Let us not follow their examples of sin in the wilderness.
- C. "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."