

Heeding the Examples of Old

By Jonathan L. Perz (jonathan@simplyapreacher.com)

INTRODUCTION:

- i. Examples for our admonition – **1 Cor. 10:11**
- ii. Though often generically used of all Old Testament examples, Paul has something specific in mind to teach us.
- iii. What specific examples are we to follow and what should we remember as a result of considering these examples?

DISCUSSION:

I. THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES WERE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN OURS

- A. Do not be unaware of these characters of old – **1 Cor. 10:1-10**
- B. Consider their circumstances...
 1. All were under the cloud – **cf. Ex. 13:21; 14:19-20**
 2. All passed through the sea – their baptism – **cf. Ex. 14:21-28 (Rom. 6:1-6)**
 3. All ate the same spiritual food – **cf. Ex. 16:4, 15 (John 6:31-35)**
 4. All drank the same spiritual drink – that rock was Christ – **cf. Ex. 17:1-7; Num. 20:1-13 (John 4:10-14)**
- C. With most of them God was not pleased, being scattered in the wilderness – **Num. 14:26-32**

II. WE SHOULD HEED THEIR EXAMPLE

- A. They became our examples
- B. A fivefold admonition...
 1. Do not lust after evil things – **Num. 11:13, 31-34; Psa. 106:14 (note 1 John 2:15-17)**
 2. Do not become idolaters – **Ex. 32:1-6, 28, 35 (note 1 Cor. 10:14; Col. 3:5-7)**
 3. Do not commit sexual immorality – 23,000 fell – **Num. 25:1-9 (note 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:18)**
 4. Do not tempt Christ – destroyed by serpents – **Num. 21:4-6; cf. Deut. 6:16 (note Luke 4:9-12)**
 5. Do not complain – **Num. 16:41-49 (note Phil. 2:14; Jude 16)**
- C. These things happened to them and were written...
 1. As examples to us – **cf. Jas. 5:10-11**
 2. For our admonition – **cf. Rom. 15:4**
 3. That we may see their outcome – **cf. Heb. 13:7**

CONCLUSION:

- i. The crux of it all: “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (**1 Cor. 10:12**)
- ii. Don’t ignore the examples of old and repeat their mistakes in our lives today! God has not changed and our outcome will not be much different than theirs if we do not take heed.