

# **The Royal Route to Heaven**

## **1 Corinthians Chapter 10**

In this first letter to the Corinthians Paul has presented the principles of a Christian walk and the temptations that hamper that walk. He has written of the danger of the temptation of immorality and the importance of putting others first, even to give up a Christian liberty to help a brother or sister not to stumble. Paul gave himself as an example, but in Chapter 10 he uses the Old Testament and the Israelites as an example – not to follow, but to see the consequences of their choices.

Pray that this study will challenge and encourage you to walk according to God’s Word, which will keep you on the Royal Route.

### **Key Word(s)**

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. You might want to underline them in your Bible.

1. A word we find that is used throughout this chapter is “all”.
  - a. How many times did you find this word?
  
  - b. Write a definition below.
  
2. In the first few verses a word we find that is used several times is “tempt” or “temptation”.
  - a. How many times did you find this word?
  
  - b. Write a definition below.
  
3. Make note of any other words that are repeated or that you feel are significant here and include a definition.

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-14.**

1. In 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 Paul reminded them of the many things God had done for the Israelites. The key word in these four verses is “all”. Take each verse below and write out what the Lord had done for “all” of the Israelites. Be sure to also read the cross references in Exodus.

a. 1 Corinthians 10:1 / Exodus 13:21-22; Exodus 14:22

all \_\_\_\_\_

all \_\_\_\_\_

b. 1 Corinthians 10:2 / Exodus 14:29-31

all \_\_\_\_\_

c. 1 Corinthians 10:3 / Exodus 16:4,31

all \_\_\_\_\_

d. 1 Corinthians 10:4 / Exodus 17:1-6(7); Numbers 20:8-11

all \_\_\_\_\_

2. As we remember all that the Lord did for Israel, we must remember that God has done as many things for us and more!

a. Look back at 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 and write any corresponding things God has done for “all” Christians.

b. Now add anything you can think of that God has done for us above and beyond what He did for the Israelites. Include scriptures.

3. How did it end for the Israelites according to 1 Corinthians 10:5?

4. The Old Testament quote in verse 7 is from Exodus. To better understand why Paul included it here, read Exodus 32:1-6 and explain the actions of the children of Israel.

5. Paul reminded the Corinthians of the choices of the Israelites from the Old Testament. As you consider these choices, what purpose do you find in 1 Corinthians 10:6 and 11, and how does this apply to us?

6. Matthew Henry said of the Israelites, “They enjoyed great privileges but, having been guilty of heinous provocations, they fell under very grievous punishments.”

Paul lists specific choices the Israelites made to sin and the consequences. For each verse in 1 Corinthians 10:7-10 below, write the sin and the consequence.

	<u>Sin</u>	<u>Consequence</u>
a. verse 7		(not given)
b. verse 8		
c. verse 9		
d. verse 10		

7. Consider the sins and consequences above.

- a. What do these examples tell you about sin?
  
- b. How should these examples effect your daily choices?

8. The warning given in 1 Corinthians 10:12 is an important one. Write out the warning below, then explain what it means to you.

9. When we are faced with temptation, we have some promises in 1 Corinthians 10:13 that help. Complete each statement or encouragement below.

a. No temptation \_\_\_\_\_

b. ...but God \_\_\_\_\_

c. ...who will not \_\_\_\_\_

d. ...but with the temptation \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_.

10. God helps us when we are faced with temptation, but we also have instruction of what we are to do. Write out what the following scriptures tell you to do that will help avoid temptation.

a. Psalm 119:11

b. 1 Corinthians 6:18

c. 2 Corinthians 10:5

d. 2 Timothy 2:22

11. What further encouragement do you find in Hebrews 2:18?

1 Corinthians 10:14 is a conclusion for verses 6-13 above, saying, "*Therefore, my beloved, flee idolatry!*" Remember, an idol does not have to be a carved image. Idolatry is anything in your life that you choose to make more important than God.

### Read 1 Corinthians 10:15-22.

Let's pause and consider where we are in Paul's instruction. In Chapters 8 and 9 he taught about the importance of sacrificial living, in giving up liberties so as not to stumble another. He stated that "*I have become all things to all men...*" in 1 Corinthians 9:22, but we also see that in doing this Paul did not turn from his main priority – Christ and the gospel. Alan Redpath wrote of three "Rules of the Road" that Paul is setting out for us in our walk on the Royal Route, the first rule being this **sacrificial living for others**, but followed here in 1 Corinthians 10 by a second essential rule of **separation unto God**. As you look closer at the next section of scripture keep in mind the difference between *associating* with nonbelievers and *fellowshipping* with them.

1. What does 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 say about communion?

2. When you read 1 Corinthians 10:18-20 it is important to note the difference between what Paul is referring to here and what he addressed in chapter 8. In chapter 8 he was talking about "eating" meat offered to idols simply as food. Here, in Chapter 10, he is talking about partaking of the meat in an act of worship and fellowship in this offering to idols. How does Paul explain his concern in 1 Corinthians 10:20-22?

3. "*Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy?*" What do the following scriptures say about a jealous God?

a. Exodus 34:14

b. Deuteronomy 5:9

4. We often think of the word jealous in negative terms. Yet, the Lord's jealousy over us is a good thing. What do you think of when you think of the Lord being jealous over you?

### Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-33.

Consider again the difference between associating and fellowshipping. Eating meat offered to idols is the example here, but it holds true in all things we do with new believers and unbelievers. Let's look at the third rule of "Rules of the Road" from Alan Redpath: **Single-mindedness of purpose** - for the glory of God!

1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:25-30, then explain the conclusion from verses 32-33.
  
2. The answer to any confusion from this chapter is given in 1 Corinthians 10:31.
  - a. Write out this verse below.
  
  - b. What does this mean in reference to meat offered to idols?
  
  - c. What does this mean to you today?

**In closing...**

1. Read James 1:12-16 about temptation.
  - a. What is the source of temptation?
  
  - b. What is the end result of giving in to temptation?
  
  - c. From 1 John 1:9, what is our hope when we do give into sin from temptation?
  
2. Read 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 again about the blessing of communion. What does communion mean to you today? Thank the Lord for the privilege of partaking in this special remembrance.