

Third Sunday in Lent – 2025

Saturday, 3/22 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/23 at 9:00

# Is God Well-Pleased With You?

*Let us learn from four past examples!*

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 NAS-95

Lenten Wednesdays: Service 11, Meal 12 | Meal 6, Service 7

**Introduction:** Dear friends: Think about the world in which we live – we have been blessed with:

- An abundance of food, clothes, and shelter!
- Easy access to have, read, and live the Bible!
- Pastors who are preaching and teaching God’s word!

SO BLESSED, **but** how have we responded? Ancient Israel did very poorly; **let us NOT do the same!**

- Amazing Blessings – Horrible Response:** <sup>1</sup> **For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers [the people through whom the LORD had chosen to bring the Messiah into the world] were all under the cloud [guided by the LORD], and all passed through the sea [protected from Pharaoh’s army]; <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea [“The cloud and the sea together became the elements by which the children of Israel were... separated as the people of the covenant” (Kretzmann).]; <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food [God’s gift of manna]; <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink [God’s gift of water from a rock], **for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.** <sup>5</sup> **Nevertheless, with most of them [with all the adults – except for Joshua and Caleb] God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.****

- a. Baptism Into Moses >>> Into Christ: Dr. Kretzmann wrote: “In saying that the children of Israel were baptized into Moses, the apostle means that they entered into intimate relationship... with Moses, as the mediator of the divine [appearances]; they took upon themselves the obligation to follow [Moses] faithfully as the leader given them by God (Ex. 14:31), even as a believer baptized into Christ makes [Jesus] the great Leader of his life (Gal. 3:27).”
- b. The Rock Which Followed Them Was Christ: The preincarnate Son of God provided their needs during the 40 years. The Israelites “should have recognized his presence and... worshipped his power and his goodness” (Lenski, 394), but, sadly, *they did not*.
- c. All Versus Most: **All** were greatly blessed – *freedom from slavery in Egypt and much more*; nevertheless, **most** responded with ☹no trust, ☹much sinning, and ☹many complaints. The bodies of most – *though filled with miraculous food and drink* – were buried in the wilderness☹. How are we responding to God’s great blessings?

2. **Powerful Examples**: <sup>6</sup> **Now these things happened as examples for us...** // Examples are good; they can show us **◆**how to do something **OR** **◆**what to avoid. What is the purpose of Paul’s examples? **...that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved.** The people should have been grateful and shunned evil, *but, sadly, many did not*. In each case, *their evil came from their unbelieving hearts!*

- a. False Worship (Ex. 32): <sup>7</sup> **And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play [to**

*engage in immoral activities].” // The LORD powerfully ✦delivered the people from Egypt and ✦parted the Red Sea. However, *when Moses was on Mount Sinai – having been called up by the LORD*, some people ✦made the calf, ✦worshiped it, and ✦sacrificed to it. *Then 3,000 were put to death!* Is something in our lives more important than the LORD? **What** is your answer? **Do** your actions agree with your answer?*

- b. Fornication (Num. 25:1-9): **<sup>8</sup> Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.** // **Num. 25:1-2** “...the people [of Israel] began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab... and bowed down to their gods.” What did the LORD do? He commanded that ✦all the leaders of the people be put to death and ✦the judges kill all the immoral participants. Is fornication – sex before marriage – common in the US? About 90% have sex before marriage! **Without repentance, such people will NOT be welcomed into heaven** (see **1 Cor. 6:9-11**). *It is crucial for all fornicators to repent (Acts 3:19)!*
- c. Trying the LORD (Num. 21:4-9): **<sup>9</sup> Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.** // “To try out the Lord is to go to the limit... to see whether he will show himself as God by punishing those who thus try him out” (Lenski, 399). When the Israelites became impatient and spoke against God and Moses, **that came from their unbelieving hearts**. Then the LORD sent fiery serpents and many of the people died. For us, **from believing hearts**, let us ✦see His blessings and ✦be thankful!
- d. Complaining (Num. 16:1-50): **<sup>10</sup> Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.** //

During the 40 years, there were many instances of complaint *but especially when Korah, Dathan, and Abiram led hundreds of others to challenge the leadership of Moses and Aaron.* What happened? “...the ground that was under them split open; and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, and their households” (31-32).

3. **The Purpose of the Examples:** <sup>11</sup> **Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.** // The examples ↯ instructed the Corinthians in Paul’s day and ↯ continue to instruct us in our day.
4. **The Object of Our Trust:** <sup>12</sup> **Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.** // All who trust in themselves have a false sense of security. *They will fall!* **So let us be** ↯ sorry for our sins, ↯ humble in heart, ↯ confident in Jesus alone, and ↯ careful to follow God’s word!
5. **How to Deal with Temptation:** <sup>13</sup> **No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.** // Think about the three underlined words! Then, let us ↯ repent in every needed way and ↯ honor the LORD!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear LORD, *like ancient Israel and the Corinthian believers*, we too have been richly blessed in countless ways. Please ↯ forgive us and ↯ help us to please You in everything!

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