ADDRESSING THE ISSUES
"Trials and Temptations" 1 Corinthians 10:1-22

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Trials and temptations are the inevitable lot of fallen people who live in a fallen world. God does not send them, but He does permit them. Provided we handle them correctly, they serve to help us mature. But when mishandled, they can lead to great harm. The Children of Israel were a great example of this.

I. The Abuse of Privilege—An Example from Israel's Past. vv. 1-11

A. The causes of the abuse of privilege.
  1. Lack of appreciation of God's blessings.
     a. Divine guidance—"under the cloud."
     b. Divine deliverance—"passed through the sea."
     c. Divine provision—"spiritual food and…drink."
     d. Divine patience (Moses' too!).
  2. Lack of obedience to God's commands.
     a. The divine prohibition against idolatry. Exodus 20:3-6; 32:6
     b. The divine instructions about sexuality. Numbers 25:1-9
     c. The divine evaluation of behavior.
        i. "To know what was in your heart." Deuteronomy 8:2
        ii. "Setting our hearts on evil things as they did."
  3. Lack of faith in God's power.
     a. Testing the Lord—"Can God spread a table?" Psalm 78:18
     b. Grumbling against the Lord. See Numbers 14:11
B. The consequences of the abuse of privilege.
  1. God was not pleased with most of them.
  2. They never made it to the Promised Land.
  3. These things serve as a warning…
  4. Rebellion is not disregarded.

II. The Application of Principle—To the Church Universal. vv. 12-14

A. Beware of spiritual complacence.
   "If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall."
B. Be aware of spiritual competence.
   "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man."
  1. "Peirasmos" is supervised by a faithful God.
  2. An opportunity to go wrong…or do right.
  3. There is always a "way out" for those who seek it.
  4. There are no such promises for those looking for the "way in."
C. Be alert to spiritual compromise.
   "Flee from idolatry."

Points to Ponder: When "testings" come my way do I do right or go wrong?