

Sunday, May 28, 2017—I Corinthians 10:14-22 One Bread and One Body

### **Introduction**

- Last week we concluded our discussion of the short paragraph found in verses 12 and 13. In doing so we observed the following regarding verse 13:
  - Temptation in the Bible can either be an enticement to sin or a trial/test.
  - Contrary to popular religious opinion God doesn't have some special unique trial designed with you in mind.
  - God is not going to afflict you with a temptation/trial, however, nor is he going to insulate you from them either.
  - In the midst of your "common to man" trial or temptation God is always faithful.
  - the "way of escape" does not remove the trail or temptation altogether it just means that you will "be able to bear it."
- Use the illustration of Frodo from the Lord of the Rings.
- This morning we want to move on through the passage and consider the next section of the text.

### **I Corinthians 10:14**

- **Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.**
- This is the second paragraph in a row that Paul has begun with the word "wherefore." Please recall from our study of Verse 12 that the word "wherefore" means: "for which reason" (*Webster's 1828*).
- So on the basis of all that has been said thus far in Chapter 10, Paul instructs the Corinthians to flee from idolatry in verse 14. The statement to "flee from ideology" is in the imperative mood, which means Paul is commanding the Corinthians to refrain from idolatry in the present.
- I Corinthians 10:7—previously Paul used the "ensample" of idolatry from Israel's past. Recall that when we studied verses 7-10, I mentioned that Paul chose these "ensamples" from time past for a reason i.e., he knew they were particular things that the Corinthians struggled with.

### **I Corinthians 10:15**

- **I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.**

- The word translated “wise” in Verse 15 means that Paul is going to address them as intelligent, thinking believers capable of discerning what he is about to say. Paul is not back tracking here on everything he said about worldly wisdom in Chapters 1-4. The word used for “wisdom” in those earlier chapters was a wholly different Greek word.
  - Matthew 7:24
  - Matthew 10:16
  - I Corinthians 4:10
- I Corinthians 10:15—Paul is meaning to say that the Corinthians are capable of understanding and “judging” what he is about to say. The verb “judge” means that Paul wants the Corinthians to determine if what he is about to say is correct. In verse 16 Paul is going to ask them a series of rhetorical questions. Therefore, he leaves it up to them to determine whether the implied answers are right. Verse 15 is Paul expression of confidence that what his about to teach them makes logical sense.

### **I Corinthians 10:16**

- **The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?**
- First note that both parts of verse 16 are questions. These are but a few of the rhetorical questions Paul was preparing them for in the previous verse.
- Paul is clearly referring here to the “Lord table” or “Lord’s supper” that the Corinthians were practicing.
  - I Corinthians 10:21
  - I Corinthians 11:20, 23-26
- *Communion*—it is important to realize that this word is not referring to a “Christian sacrament.” The primary meaning of the underlying Greek work means: “fellowship, association, community, joint participation, or intercourse.”
  - Acts 2:42
  - Romans 15:26
  - I Corinthians 1:9
  - II Corinthians 6:14

- Galatians 2:9
- Philemon 6
- The *Oxford English Dictionary* offers the following relevant definitions for “communion.”
  - The action or fact of sharing or holding something in common with others; mutual participation; the condition of things so held, mutuality, community, union.
  - The fact of being associated or linked; association, connection. Now *rare*.
  - Fellowship; the fact of being associated in one's actions or relations; mutual association, society, converse. Now *rare*.
- I Corinthians 10:16—Paul is not referring primarily to a physical action but to a spiritual reality. Paul’s rhetorical questions obviously imply a positive answer. There is communion or fellowship enjoyed by those who are in the body of Christ on the basis of having trusted in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Philippians 3:6
- I Corinthians 10:16—the answer to both questions is yes.

### **I Corinthians 10:17**

- **For we *being* many are one bread, *and* one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.**
- In verse 17 we see the application of Paul questions from verse 16. It follows logically that if the bread that we break is the communion/fellowship of the body Christ then we being many are one bread. All those who enjoy the communion of the body of Christ in verse 16 are part of the one bread that symbolizes the one body in verse 17.
- This language is very similar to Paul’s body illustration in chapter 12.
  - I Corinthians 12:12-20
- I Corinthians 10:17—a loaf of bread is made up of many slices. Yet their fellowship together as individual slices comprise an entire complete loaf. So it is with the body of Christ, there is one loaf made up of many individual slices.
- So how did we become members of the loaf by being partakes of that one bread i.e., Christ.

- Please note that verses 18 through 22 were covered during the preaching of this lesson. There are no written notes for those verses.