

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 10:1-15

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

RUN CHRISTIAN RUN – PART 2

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Fellowship, Obedience, Temptation

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are: **Life, Liberty** and the *pursuit of Happiness*.*

The Nature of Our God is to Promote Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness

But how we define those words and their meaning makes the difference

Leviticus 25:10b

“...proclaim **liberty** throughout all the land to all its inhabitants.”

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **liberty**.

John 8:31-32

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. :32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” – **That’s Liberty !**

1 Corinthians 10:11

Now **all these things happened** to them as **examples (types)**, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Romans 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

RUN CHRISTIAN RUN
WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

1.) Run with your eyes wide open

v.1-6

The wilderness experiences of our lives

1a.) Knowing that God has been at work in your life

v.1-4

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be **unaware** (ignorant, uninformed) that **all** our fathers were under **the cloud**, **all** passed through **the sea**, **:2 all** were **baptized** into Moses in the **cloud** and in the **sea** **:3 all** ate **the same spiritual food**, **:4 and all** drank **the same spiritual drink**. *For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ*

Israel and the Jewish People Can Never Honestly Deny That God's Hand Has Been Upon Them as a Nation and People.

And No one in this place can deny that God has not worked in their lives also.

Friend - God has been at work in your life!

Psalm 138:8

The LORD will perfect *that which* concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, *endures* forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of **Jesus Christ**;

Yeshua Hamashiach

1b.) Choosing to lay your life out before Him

v.5

:5 But with **most of them** (all but 2) God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

The People Failed to Make Their Journey Personal

“The Cause of Death: Unbelief.”

It was Unbelief that Killed Them – All along Their Journey

\\\\\\ Unbelief Is The Root Cause of All Our Woes \\\\\\

Every day **you & I** receive God's blessings. Every day you and I hear Gods word. Every day **you & I** see awesome manifestations of God.

I am Personally Convinced that Unbelief is The Most Wicked Thing.

It sees God and hears God. **It** enjoys His benefits and **It** believes enough so that **It** cannot be an atheist – but **It** refuses to **trust God with everything.**

Hebrews 3:19-4:2

So we see that they could not enter in because of **unbelief**. **4:1** Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have **come short of it**. **:2** For indeed **the gospel was preached to us as well as to them**; but the word which they heard did not profit them, (why?) not being **mixed with faith in** those who heard it.

RUNNING WITH YOUR EYES WIDE OPEN

1c.) Deciding that you will not waste your life

v.6

:6 Now these things became our examples, to the **intent** that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

Hebrews 3:12

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you **an evil heart of unbelief** in **departing** from the living God; - *to go lusting after an idol of your choosing*

departing – to walk out, drift away, be untied from the moorings - willfully

Judges 16:20

And so Delilah said, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "*I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!*" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

I Encourage You This Morning...

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be **steadfast, immovable, always** (super) **abounding** in the work of the Lord, **knowing** that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

But You Must Decide Every day to Follow Him

I Encourage You This Morning...

Jude 24

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

But You Must Decide Every day to Follow Him

I Encourage You This Morning...

Ephesians 4:30

And do not **grieve** (make sad, to upset) the Holy Spirit of God,

But You Must Decide Every day to Follow Him

I Encourage You This Morning...

Colossians 1:21-23

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. **:22** But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation **:23** if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

But You Must Decide Every day to Follow Him

RUN CHRISTIAN RUN

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

2.) Run with your heart fully engaged

v.7-11

Q: - What's in your heart? Your desires and affections, those passions inside of you is your place of worship. – There is a Throne in Your Heart!

Who Sits on That Throne?

2a.) Keeping your heart in the journey

v.7-8

:7 And do not become **(1)** idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, "*The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.*" **:8** Nor let us **(2)** commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

There is a danger of losing interest as the journey drags on.

We need to persevere, every day, day in – day out, month after month, year after year, decade after decade!!!

Galatians 6:9

Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

"O remember how great it was in Egypt? The onion rings, meat, and what about those leeks – remember that?"

They Didn't Keep Their Heart in the Journey. They began to demand their own way. They wanted their own leaders. They wanted their own menu.

The Book of Numbers 21 says that in 1 day 23,000 died. **By** the time the judgment has ended – 24,000 would be dead from sexual immorality.

THE DANGER OF “ALMOST” MAKING IT TO THE FINISH

Run Christian Run

Mark 13:13

And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

RUNNING WITH YOUR HEART FULLY ENGAGED

2b.) Guarding your heart against compromise

v.9-10

:9 nor let us **(3) tempt** Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; :10 nor **(4) complain**, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by **the destroyer**.

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by **prayer** and **supplication**, with **thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; :7 and the **peace** of God, which surpasses all understanding, will **guard** your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

You See - Our Greatest Dangers Come from Within Us

Our thoughts and Imaginations. Our Emotions and Fears,
All of Them Unite to Cause us to Forget God

:9 nor let us **(3) tempt** Christ, as some of them also tempted,
and were destroyed by serpents;

Provoking God by Their Attack on God’s character.

“how could you do this God, bring us out here into the wilderness?”

:10 nor **(4) complain**, as some of them also complained,
and were destroyed by **the destroyer**.

The destroyer **GRK.** The pursuer, the spoiler. The slayer with the intent to kill. The murderer. It’s a reference to Satan and his demons which are always close by and lying in wait for an opportunity.

Ephesians 6:16

above all, taking the **shield of faith** (*faith*) with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. (*by your faith*)

Greek Amplified Bible

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant *and* cautious at all times; for the enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking anyone to seize upon *and* to devour. :9 You must then withstand him by being firm **in the faith...**

Satan's Weapons Target Your Faith at All Times – In every Situation.

**Going To Church and Exercising Your Faith
is Necessary to Survive.**

Hebrews 10:25

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. – *hey California, the day is approaching*

RUNNING WITH YOUR HEART FULLY ENGAGED

2c.) Preparing your heart for the end

v.11-12

:11 Now ***all these things happened*** to them as ***examples (types)***, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. :12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands **take heed** lest he fall.

“all these things (really) happened”
(that is to say, these were actual, historical events)

Christian Maturity is Good – Over-Confidence is Dangerous

:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands **take heed** lest he fall.

(a grave warning to all to stay in on the journey and to be humble)

Therefore let him who thinks he stands

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

I have not seen a time like this in all my life when men are willingly destroying their lives and robbing themselves of God's will for their lives - - they will never be able to fully recover to what God had for them.

Please love God more than _____

Proverbs 29:1

He who is often rebuked, (*repeating the same sin*) and hardens *his* neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

You're Flirting With Death – A Grave Warning here

Hebrews 6:4-6

It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, :5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, :6 if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

RUN CHRISTIAN RUN

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

3.) Run with your body totally committed

v.13-15

3a.) Bring your body under His control

v.13a

:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man;

This takes us right back to 9:27

Temptation is common to all people.

But not all people yield to temptation. The Christian has been given all power to him to resist temptation.

Every human being is tempted by 3 sources of evil.
This **world**, your **flesh**, and **Satan** – they can all gang up on you.

Satan's ploy is to isolate you in your thinking and to get you to believe that you've been defeated and that now you're condemned.

Hebrews 4:14-15

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. :15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was **in all points** tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 2:18

For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

What is a temptation?

It's that person, place or thing that endangers your relationships.

RUNNING WITH YOUR BODY TOTALLY COMMITTED

3b.) Offer your body as a holy instrument to God

v.13b

:13b but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of **escape**, that you may be able to **bear** it.

Remember this:

99% of this battle has already been determined by the fact that you and I have no rights to our bodies because as a Christian – I belong to Christ.

I have no right to take my (HIS) body and do
with it as I am tempted to do.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? :20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

A great example from scripture for us...

Matthew 4:1-4

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted** by the devil. :2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. :3 Now when the **tempter** came to Him, he said, "If (*since - based on Matthew 3:17*) You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." :4 But He answered and said, "It is written, (*quoting Deuteronomy 8*) '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*'" :5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, :6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: '*He shall give His angels charge over you,*' and, '*In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.*'" :7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, '*You shall not tempt the LORD your God.*'"

With every one of these temptations **Jesus used the Bible very specifically** to escape the temptation – the sword of the spirit at work.

Ephesians 6:17b

and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Gideon's Army & Torches.

Judges 7:16-21

Then he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers... :19 It was just after midnight, after the changing of the guard, when Gideon and the one hundred men with him reached the outer edge of the Midianite camp. Suddenly, they blew the horns and broke their clay jars. :20 Then all three groups blew their horns and broke their jars. They held the blazing torches in their left hands and the horns in their right hands and shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" :21 Each man stood at his position around the camp and watched as all the Midianites rushed around in a panic, shouting as they ran.

RUNNING WITH YOUR BODY TOTALLY COMMITTED

3c.) Run your body away from temptation toward God

v.14-15

Therefore, my beloved, **flee** from idolatry (**temptation**). :15 I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say.

The Painful “Reality of Giving in” To Temptation is:

Genesis 3:8-9

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. :9
Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?”

Self-Awareness / Isolation / Guilt / Shame / Blame

Notice Friend – He came to them!

Genesis 3:8

...And they **heard the sound of the LORD (YHWH) God walking in the garden** in the cool of the day

He’s the One Who “walked among” our first father and mother, Adam and Eve.
BUT WAS REJECTED!

He has promised to “walk us through life’s hardships and pain” – He promised.

Daniel 3:19-25

Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. :20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, *and cast them* into the burning fiery furnace....:21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. :22 Therefore, because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. :23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. :24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste *and* spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” :25 “Look!” he answered, “**I see four men loose, walking around in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**”

When Jacob was gripped by Fear and Depression;
The bible says he had come to **Luz**

Genesis 28:10-19

Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. :11 So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. :12 Then he dreamed, and behold, **a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.** :13 And behold, **the LORD stood above it and said: “I *am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.** :14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed

all the families of the earth shall be blessed. :15 Behold, I *am* with you and will keep you wherever you go, **and will bring you back to this land**; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.” :16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the **LORD** is in this place, and I did not know *it*.” :17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome *is* this place! This *is* none other than the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven!”... :19 And he called the name of that place **Bethel**; but the name of that city had previously been called Luz (looz – a nut tree, almond?)

Charles Spurgeon, 1863 London:

“The god of bethel is a god who concerns himself with the things of earth. He’s not a god who has shut himself up in heaven; he’s the god who has come down and walked among man – he has a ladder and its made out of the love – the love he has for mankind. (Genesis 28:12) “The LORD heard me in my distress, my cry came to His ears (Psalm 18:6) The LORD numbers our wanderings and he stores our tears in His bottle (Psalm 56:8)”

John 3:16

For (because) **God so** (so) **loved** the world that He gave (gifted) His only **begotten** (there is no other) Son, that whoever **believes** (to deposit your hope) in Him should not perish but have **everlasting life**.
(never ending, forever life)

The shrine, altar, temple of self is our self-centricity,
Our self-pleasure, our self-life and the Bible says our flesh needs to die to these things

Here's the challenge for us today:

How can we know if the presence of the LORD has departed from us.

1. Have we become bored with Biblical Christianity?
2. Once upon a time – did God use you to reach others?
3. Does the fact that you know people who are going to hell bother you?
4. When was the last time you got angry over sin and godlessness?
5. Are you more excited about following Jesus than when you first began?

Watch out for These Modern Day Signs of Unbelief.

1. The thought that you can make it through the day without God or His word.
2. Attempting to be a Christian without the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. Seeing your sinfulness as something that is to be tolerated.
4. Lack of prayer and communion with God on a personal level.
5. Not having Christian fellowship in your life.

End of Study