



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Christians, Be Careful! March 20, 2022

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. ¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! ¹³No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1. Have you ever sought a sign from God? When and why? What makes such signs unnecessary?
2. Read verses 1-4. Paul uses language to make us think of our New Testament sacraments. Draw some comparisons between what God did for Israel and what he does for us in Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

3. There is an ancient legend that says that a piece of the rock from which Moses brought forth water in the wilderness “rolled” along with Israel wherever the people traveled always providing water. How does Paul set the record straight? What is striking about the picture he paints?
4. Times change, but sin and sinners don’t. List ways that we are tempted by the same sins that were prevalent 3500 years ago among Israel and 2000 years ago among the Corinthian Christians.
5. Like those before us, we are often tempted to try to excuse our sin and, in this way, provide ourselves a false sense of security when it comes to our relationship with God. Read: Luke 3:8. What message can we Lutheran Christians take from the Baptizer’s words? Read: Romans 6:1-4. What popular excuse does Paul take away from us and how?
6. Read v. 12. Agree or disagree and why? It’s wrong to think you are standing firm as a Christian.
7. What does Paul mean when he refers to us New Testament Christians as those “...on whom the culmination of the ages has come.”
8. Agree or disagree and why? Christians can withstand every temptation.
9. List some weapons that God provides to us in our battle against temptation.
10. How is the “sign of the cross” the one and only sign that assures us of our right standing with God?