

# Following Christ into New Life

1 Corinthians 10:1-14

Pastor Guy Gray

## **The Miracle of Exodus—Right Here, Right Now**

You can feel the sense of frustration rising up in Apostle Paul as he writes to the Corinthians. He is frustrated because he knows the full story of what God wants to do in the Church at Corinth; he realizes that they are falling way short. He knows all that God has in mind for this community of faith—how amazing it can be for them—how deep their experience of Christ can be and how greatly they can impact the world for Christ. He knows this because he understands the plan of God as laid out in the Scriptures. He knows the church of Jesus Christ is living out the model of redemption and new life that was first experienced by Israel in the Book of Exodus. As we have learned at River West, the story of Exodus is the ultimate model of the redemptive work of God in our world. It shows the pattern: God's radical intervention to defeat evil and set people free. In Exodus it was the blood of the sacrificial lamb (Passover) and the miracle of deliverance at the Red Sea, all by God's divine power, which set the people free and led them into a new life with God. All of this was a foreshadowing of the Gospel of Christ. Jesus is the true Lamb of God, who died for our sins and then rose again from the dead, overcoming sin, Satan and evil. All of this is the doorway to a new life for God's people, the Church of Jesus Christ! What a wonderful model of God's work for us and His purpose for His people to live in newness of life!

## **The Ugly Threat of Misdirected Desire**

There is more to the story and that is why Paul is frustrated. In the Book of Exodus, even after the miracle of their deliverance, God's people still gave into sin and failed to move fully into the new life that God had called them to. What a tragedy! It's a tragedy that has been repeated over and over again with God's people. It was happening in Corinth and the truth is it happens in the church today as well. So Paul tells the rest of the story. He shows how the people of the Exodus allowed the "misdirected desires" of their own hearts to derail their progress with God. This is the point of 1 Corinthians 10:6 and it is the key to the whole passage. He wants the Corinthians to learn from the failure of the Israelites in Exodus. Their problem was that they "set their hearts upon evil things." This is "misdirected desire." This is always the root of the sins of idolatry and it can be expressed in so many ways in our lives. Misdirected desire takes an unbelievable toll on our lives. It causes us to pursue fulfillment outside of God's will. It causes us to grumble and complain and ultimately doubt God or replace Him in our lives. This ugly threat of misdirected desire is always pulling at our hearts as we live in this fallen culture. The Corinthians had given in to it. It was twisting their faith and destroying their church. Paul wants to warn them. This is serious stuff. The consequences are real and devastating.

## **The Ever Present Help of God**

But he doesn't just dump on them and tell them to get their act together by their own effort. Ever the wise and loving pastor, Paul points them back to the love, the power, the promise and the presence of God in their lives. Read 1 Corinthians 10:11-13. With the warning comes the crucial encouragement we all need. God is with us. God will always give us a way of escape. If it weren't for this, perhaps Paul would have given up on the Corinthians a long time ago! He knows that God has not given up on them. He knows that there is always a way to turn things around. That is the power of God at work in our lives. For this power to happen we each need to get serious about the idols in our lives. We need to humbly open our hearts to God and ask for Him to break the pattern of misdirected desire in our lives. This is the only way forward with Christ. There is a whole new life ahead for us to experience as individuals and as a church. Let's not allow anything to hold us back from all that God has designed for our lives!

**Questions for Discussion & Reflection:**

This week as you read through 1 Corinthians 10:1-14, prayerfully seek the Lord and His word for your life.

How is God working in your life through this passage?

**Setting Our Hearts on...**

Why might it be important to evaluate our hearts desires? How has "misdirected desire" taken a toll in your life?

As you have spent time with the Lord and in His word, is He showing you any misdirected desire in your life right now?

Spend time in prayer. Humbly ask the Lord to help you. He longs to change your heart and give you everything you need for a life of godliness.

**Upcoming Events:****Sign-up Today!**

**Mondays Starting February 4th, Financial Peace University, 6:30-8:30 @ RWLG Fellowship Hall**

This is a 13 week series that teaches biblical principles on how to handle our finances. We will cover topics such as; communicating with your spouse about money, paying off and staying out of debt, teaching your children about money, learning to be a cheerful giver, and many other practical topics. Contact Julie Messenger at 503-699-2226 or [Julie@riverwest.org](mailto:Julie@riverwest.org).

**Friday, February 8th, Friday Night Fellowship: 7:00-8:30 @ RWLG Fellowship Hall**

Friday Night Fellowship is a great opportunity for all 4th & 5th graders to dig in the scripture, grow relationships and encourage each others faith. Don't forget to bring a friend! For more information contact Lindsie at 699.2226 or [lindsie@riverwest.org](mailto:lindsie@riverwest.org)

**Thursdays Starting February 7th, Foundations Series 4: Building a Biblical View of God, 7-8:30pm @ RWLG**

Join as we explore the reality of God as revealed in the Bible and what it means for our lives and our world. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Gerry Breshears present this session of Foundations. Dr. Breshears Chairs the Theology Department at Western Seminary in Portland. He is a former president of the Evangelical Theological Society and is co-author with Mark Driscoll of the new book: [Vintage Jesus: Timeless Answers to Timely Questions](#). Dr. Breshears has an uncommon ability to share the truths of Scripture and Christian theology in a way that intersects with real life.