

FBC - 10/14/84
Sunday P. M.
From Tape/mc

GOD WOULD HAVE US TO LEARN A
LITTLE HISTORY!
1 Cor. 10: 1-12

Open your Bibles to 1 Cor. 10. If I were going to give a title to what I'm going to teach on tonight, I would lift it out of History. Oliver Cromwell, who was the ruler of England for a time in the 17th Century, arranged the education of his son, Richard, and in the instructions he said this: 'I would have him to learn a little history'. I would call this message tonight 'God would have us to learn a little history'. Because what we have in 1 Cor. 10 is a history lesson. God going back to Israel and showing some things that happened to them and how judgment came upon them and picks this up and warns us that this is for our warning and our admonition, that we, as His people today, not be guilty of these same sins lest we be judged.

We would be judged more severely because we have more Light. God would have us to know a little history. So let's look at it now.

V. 1:(read) and through V. 4; In V. 2 that should be 'baptized into Moses'. Notice in these 4 verses, ALL appears throughout there. In these verses, we have the tremendous blessings bestowed upon His people, Israel. In V. 1, he says that all our fathers were under the cloud. That is GUIDANCE. That was the cloud, the miraculous cloud which guided Israel through the day and the pillar of fire through the night. What a marvelous thing that was. What is our guidance today? The Word of God and the H. S.

John 16: 13 (read) 'shall guide you into all Truth'. Rom. 8: 14 (read) what guidance God has given and ~~what guidance~~ what guidance God has given this congregation. How wonderful it is that God has given this congregation a Vision. Guidance that He's given us. I don't know of a congregation in America - I'm honest - that's had more privilege than this congregation. Dr. LeHay stood in this church on Friday night and said 'I am amazed, I'm amazed. I did not know there was a church like this in Ft. Smith'. And we hear it all the time; we are so blessed as a people. Let us not be prideful.

But let us be humbled before God and realize that He can take every one of these blessings away

from us unless we move on to obey Him and not sit here. But move on to obey Him in the call He has on this congregation to share the Gospel with the world. But they had guidance. In the next place, they had

SECOND: DELIVERANCE. 'And ALL passed through the sea'(the Red Sea). The miracle of walking through that sea on dry land. We have experience the deliverance of Jes. the Blood of the Cross. This congregation is virtually untouched by liberal teachings. Unusual thing for a church this large. I don't know a liberal faction in this church tonight. Most FBC churches have liberal factions. Not this church. Unusual.

Then God has delivered us through so many trials and so many problems, as individuals and as a church, His protection has been upon us. I could preach a whole sermon on just how Gods protected me, the staff and how He's protected the congregation in seventeen years. It's marvelous. He did this for Israel. Then, in V. 2, he says ''and were all baptized(literally INTO Moses) in the cloud and in the sea'. What does this mean? It means

THIRD: TOTAL IDENTIFICATION WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF MOSES. We think, immediately of our identification with Christ, which is symbolized in baptism. When we come to Jes., He comes in to us, through the H. S. and at the same time, through Spirit Baptism, we're placed in to Him until we are totally identified with Jes. Do you realize that everything in the world that belongs to JC, belongs to you and me tonight. Everything? We're in Jes. tonight. Through the baptism of the H. S., we're in Jes. tonight and all that Jes. has purchased on that cross and in His resurrection belongs to us tonight.

What a privilege to be identified with J.C. and to be baptized into His living Body. Then, in the next place, it says in V. 3 (read). That is our

FOURTH: SPIRITUAL FOOD. Oh, how we feast upon the Word of God in this place. The Bible is taught; it's our textbook. Just think about the Lords Supper this morning. What a time of feasting upon the Word of God and upon Jes. the Living Word. Being fed of the Lord. I

want to say to you tonight if you are a person who's not a member of this church and you're seeking a church, the first question you ought to ask is 'would I be fed in this church? Would I hear the Bible or would I hear the opinion of man?' Let me make this promise - I can't make many promises but I promise that as long as I'm pastor, you will NEVER come to this church that you won't hear a sermon from the Bible. You will never hear a book review; you will never hear me get up and read Scrip. and depart therefrom and tell tales and leave you without the Word of God! I will always feed you with the Word of God.

I believe that we'll find this in the S. S. And this is a wonderful thing, my friends, because in many churches, you don't hear the Word in the pulpit and you don't hear it in the S.S. at all. We've been wonderfully privileged in our church. And then, in V. 4

FIFTH: SPIRITUAL DRINK. Isn't it amazing what he says? For they drank of that Spiritual 'petra' (that's the same word that Jes. uses in Matt. 16: 18 when He said to Peter 'thou art Petros and upon Petra (that's Jes.) I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' But he said 'they did all drink the same Spritual drink for they drank of that Spiritual Petra that followed them and that rock was Christ'. Is Jes. in the O. T.? If He's not, we better not preach it and read it any more. From Gen. to Mal, that's all the O. T. is - Jes. concealed.

Here Paul plainly says that they were feeding upon Jes., the Rock. Well, you say, people like that would never sin against God and they would never go back and you would say 'well, a church like FBC would never be in danger of backsliding or failing to obey Gods Vision or failing to move'. It's amazing, my friends, the power of satan. And how satan often will take people who have been privileged above all people in the world, and get them careless and sinning and failing God. We ought never to feel that we've ever arrived as individuals or as a church; when we get to V. 12, we'll be told 'let him that think he standeth take heed, lest he fall'.

Our church has had such blessings upon it until we are subject to get prideful and say 'well, God will be with us'. I remember hearing a man say some years ago; it frightens me to this day.

It was in the fall of '67. Right after I'd come. This person said 'I don't care how many churches there are in Ft. Smith and I don't care how many they have in S.S. and how many people they baptize and what they give to Missions, FBC will always be the church'. I could not believe my ears. And I said 'listen, the fact that we have the 'First' on our name does not assure us of anything except an opportunity! It DOES do that and the fact that we're a hundred and twenty seven years old, it DOES give us an opportunity but only an opportunity and we can blow it through our pride or through our disobedience! That's frightful!

To say that ANY church has it made or any individual. Listen, you don't have it made and I don't have it made and this church doesn't have it made. God will put this church on the shelf, if we do not obey Him. Many a church that once was a church filled with people and with glory, today is empty. Why? Because they presumed on the Grace of God. God would have us know a little history. Look at V. 5: this should be translated 'with MOST of them' is the way it should be translated. As a matter of fact, there are about two and a half million of them that came out of Egypt; only two of them went into the Promised Land. Only Two?

Though all of them had the guidance of the Lord, the deliverance of the Lord; the Identification with Moses; they fed on the Spiritual Food, the manna and they drank the rock of Christ and yet, there was only two of them that went on with God! 'For they were overthrown in the wilderness' that is, their bodies - their bones were scattered in the wilderness and every one of them above the age of 20 was judged so they'd have these privileges. You see, it is people and churches that have the Light that are judged the most severely. When they turn it down.

God does not judge us according to the number of sins that we commit. There are many churches I go to that have very little Light and, therefore, are responsible for very little. But when a church has had the Light --I bring these men into this church from all over the world and you know what you say to me all the time 'well, Pastor, that was great to have another voice, but we've heard it'. Why is that? I told Dr. LeHay on Friday night, I said 'Dr. LeHay, I've preached secular Humanism and indeed, the Humanist Magazine asked for my sermon and published

an article. He could not believe that I'd preached and that I had published an article in the Humanist Magazine and people from all over the world have written me, including Germany. Even had professors to call me from Germany.

It's just the blessing of God upon us. But with all these blessings, they were left in the wilderness - only two of them, Joshua and Caleb went into the Promised Land. Now in

V. 6, he says 'these things were our example (or one _____ or admonitions is what we would translate it as) these things were for our admonition to the intent that we should not lust (here's the blight that was on them -lust.) after evil things as they also lusted'. Did they lust after evil things? After they had all this of God? They were complaining eternally and wanted to go back to Egypt and to the world. Though they had the blessings of God! The word 'lust' here means 'to desire those things outside of the will of God'. Let me speak a word to you: it is so easy, brothers and sisters, to lust and to desire something that God doesn't want us to have!

And to get our eyes on material things and on the acclaim of the world and our own ease and our own pleasures and fail to be the soldiers of the cross and the witnesses that God would have us to be. Sometimes God will let us have it, but oh, what it does to us. Sometimes, God'll let us have money and He'll let us have something that's big in the eyes of the world, because we want it so, but what happens to us? Turn to Ps. 106: 14 (read) I want to show you and I've seen this happen every where I've ever preached, to my great sorrow.

And V. 15 (read) if we continually insist on our ease and our pleasure and our materialism, sometimes God will give us that fabulous house and this fabulous privilege but He will send lameness into our souls and how sad it is, when it happens, my friends! When HE GIVES us the desires of our hearts but it takes our heart for God away. It's a sad thing when we see people being blessed in the world and getting further and further away from the church until they won't even think about coming on Sun. night and you couldn't pay them to come on Wed.

night and would NEVER think about winning a soul and when it comes to getting in the Vision for God and doing the work of God, they're just not in it! Lameness in their souls. That's what happened to the Israelites. Lust. Then in

V. 7 (read) the latter part of this verse is referring to Exo. 32 - Moses is in the mountain getting the Law and the people get impatient and they make a golden calf, bring together their jewelry and make a golden calf. Moses comes down and rebukes Aaron and Aaron says 'well, you know I really couldn't help myself. The people, they got impatient and they couldn't see you and they wanted something to worship and I had to do this' and it even says 'they rose up to play' and that's just the euphuism is they got to dancing'. Anything wrong with dancing?

There's a kind of dancing that's of the Lord. Did you know that? The Bible speaks of the Holy dance. David danced. In all of our Baptist churches that were worth a dime, a generation ago, people shouted. Just shouting. There was shouting in this church at one time - I'm SURE there was shouting in this church, at one time. But that's not what this is talking about. They got to dancing in the flesh and then they began to commit immorality and this is what I call 'The First Love-in'. Here it is, right here. You used to read about the love-ins? Well, they had a love-in. These people that were blessed like we're talking about. ~~WAKEXMEXXNN~~

People that were blessed like Israel would do this type thing? EXACTLY! Exactly! If we're not constantly searching our souls with the Word of God and staying close to Jes., we can go in all kinds of sin, like in the church today. It would be interesting to know what our membership is doing tonight who are not here. It would be interesting to know. It would be interesting to know what the total membership of this church did last night. Oh, the sin that's in the church, so often and often plain immorality. I hear of it all the time. They were guilty of idolatry. But in

V. 8 (read) you know the reference there - what that's to? That was when they went into the Midianite camp and said 'oh, we can marry these unbelievers. We can abandon the sacredness

of marriage. We don't have to live under these old rules of marrying a believer. We'll go over here and marry anyone we want to'. Do you realize that's endangered the church of the Lord today? You young people, let me say to you - don't you get serious with anybody who's not a Xtn. When you marry someone who's not a Xtn, and sometimes someone who's a pagan, listen, you're destroying your faith and your home and you let enough of that happen in the church and you've corrupted it as a power for God.

We need to marry Xtns and we need to build homes that are Xtn and not marry Mideanites and people who don't know God. There's no greater burden that I have in my own life, as a pastor, that to have to do a wedding where one party is not saved or where they are so lukewarm that ~~xxx~~ though I counsel with them, and urge them to get in the church, I cannot even get them into church. It's bad indeed, the corrupting of marriage that comes and it's come primarily, through people who are supposed to be believers who went out and just married unbelievers and wonder why they can't build a Xtn home and they can't get them in the church. They can't get them in the S. S. so often. That has weakened the church of JC!

Or marrying outside of the faith and saying 'it doesn't matter'. It DOES matter! It matters a great deal when you go out here and marry outside of the faith and with the idea that we're gonna convert the person and we don't generally convert them at all. They drag us down and take us down the road of destruction ~~and take us~~ with them. That happened with the Israelites.

V. 9 (read) we read of this in Numbers 16 and you know ^{the way} ~~why~~ they tempted Christ? That's presumptuous! That is to say: they presumed on the grace of God and they said 'Lord, You've been so good to us that we know You won't let us down and we really don't have to take You too seriously. We just presume and listen, when you begin to presume or when the church begins to presume on the grace of God, its in danger. We ought not to presume on the grace of God one moment or be assured that God is with us unless we are with God.

I applied this to myself - if I take this attitude in my ministry, I will lose all of my power; If I think because of Gods blessings on me in the past, that I dont' have to study and pray

and live a Holy life, I presume on the grace of God and say 'I'm eternally secure' I've lost my ministry. I've lost it completely. When you take that attitude in your Xtn life, you have lost your ministry and your witness. We must forever be on the alert and never presume and never relax and never say that satan's not after us. He's after us all the time! ALL the time and we're to stay in the battle at all times. All the time and we're to stay in the battle at all times. Israel presumed on the grace of God.

Look at V. 10 (read) you have murmurings. This is the greatest sin in the church today unless it's unforgiveness. what is murmuring? Murmuring is an audible expression of an inward dissatisfaction. Everywhere I go, I find people murmuring. What are they murmuring about? Nothing. Not worth a hill of beans. They're murmuring. Murmuring against the pastor or murmuring about what the church is doing. Not murmuring about how many souls the church is winning. Or whether the church is obeying the Lord but just little things that they're murmuring, murmuring, murmuring.....

On the telephone, murmuring. In the halls of the church - murmuring. In S. S. - murmuring. Don't be guilty of such a sin. That will hurt a church more than anything; that will destroy the unity of a church and the Spirit of a church and the people may say 'well, you know there's something wrong in that.' It's awful sin! You know what the murmuring was? In Verse 10? You know what the reference is? Every Bible student says it was the murmuring against the authority of Moses. It's almost always murmuring against Spiritual authority. Often the pastor, sometimes the deacons, sometimes the minister of music, sometimes the assistant pastor, but murmuring almost universally, is a murmuring against Spiritual authority.

And you remember in the O. T. what a story it is: these three young men said 'why we can't --- (they came to Moses and said) what do you mean by saying that God has spoken to you and we're to listen to you. Do you not realize that we're as Holy as you are and that we know the will of God as well as you do and we're going to go our way and ~~we~~ we're not going to follow you'. You remember these men? Korah, Dathan and Abiram ? You know what happened to them? They

went into that congregation and they made the people rebellious. The people came to Moses and they said 'you know a lot of people are murmuring against you, Moses. They're mad at you'. Moses said 'they're not. They're just mad at God and taking their frustrations out on me'. But you know what happened to these three young fellows? Who said 'we know as much as Moses'? The earth just opened up and swallowed them down. It'd be pretty good if this could happen in some Baptist churches that I know of tonight.

My heart has been literally broken over the last ninety days as I've heard of tragedy after tragedy of a little group that arose in the church and said 'well, now, Pastor, you just don't know what you're talking about. I was in a church in Kansas recently - one of the saddest things I've witnessed in a long time - the pastor called me yesterday and said 'it's come to a showdown. I have got to ask the church to stand for me. The power structure has arisen and says 'you've got to go'.' The minister of music bought some candles to replace some old candles that were worn out. One of the ladies took him to task, not a man, but a lady said 'don't you realize you do not have that right in this church?'

The pastor said to the church one Sunday, said 'we really ought to meet for our prayer meeting - there were not but twenty people attending the prayer meeting in the Fellowship Hall' and this place is so large and save a little money'. One of the ladies of the church came to him and said 'pastor, who gave you the authority to move the prayer meeting from the worship -- a from the Sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall?' I pleaded with the church when I was there and for four nights I have never moved in the anointing of God in my life - I don't ever remember anything like it. I had the experience of Ezekial 47: 5 of flowing in the river of life of God. I ~~have~~ flowed with the Spirit for four nights - the glory of God was upon us. The altar was filled with people and I begged them to call a moratorium and to pray and to listen to the pastor.

Before the week was over, they met and would not listen and said 'the pastor has no right in the church, whatsoever, except to get up here and preach. Has no rights whatsoever!' I don't

know what in the world happened today. Yesterday I was on the telephone with two men out of the city - one of the main men is gonna come to Ft. Smith next Sunday. They've just kicked the pastor out and they said 'pastor, you just don't know - we're the ones that run the church'. That church was so filled with murmurings until I was there, it would have been a veritable Pentecost but there was so much murmuring, murmuring, murmuring, murmuring and all over ~~thaxx~~ the world tonight, we've got people just murmuring, murmuring, murmuring over that which is not worth a hill of beans.

Murmuring whether or not you'll replace some candles, while the world goes to hell! This church is ruined for a generation by rebellious people, my friends. It's ruined by rebellion of people against Gods man and God spoke to him, when he was on the mountain, on vacation and said 'go back and lead the church' and they wouldn't follow. That happens so often and it happened with Israel and God is warning the church today, NOT to let this happen. Now all these things

V. 11 (read) examples for us. And they are written for our warning, upon whom the end (or the fulfillment) of the ages are come'. Why all of this? God would have us to learn a little history. Why all of this? It's to say to you and me 'don't walk down the same road of destruction of Israel'. Don't be left in the wilderness! Don't be guilty of lusting for that which you don't need. Don't be guilty of idolatry. It's in the hearts today. A worship of ease, of money and of pleasure and our image. That's idolatry. Putting pleasure and ease and money and our image before Jes. in the heart. That's idolatry!

Don't be guilty of presuming on the grace of God and don't be guilty of immorality in marriage or in any other way and don't murmur against God and against the authority of God, but submit. Well, what does this say in

V. 12 (read) why does he put this in here? Because these Corinthians said 'why, goodness, we had Paul as our founder; and Paul as our pastor. We have the gifts of the H. S. We know the

Bible; we're educated. Gods blessed us so mightily.' But it was to that church that God said 'wherefore let him who thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall'. And that's Gods word to FBC today. We stand only in the grace of God and our future stands only in obedience to Him. Let us tonight reaffirm this Truth in our lives. Let us tonight, thank God for His blessings but to realize that they will continue, ONLY, if we continue with Him.

Are you tonight continuing with Him or are you in danger of committing some of these things; ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ some of these sins? Which will set you aside and will also set your church aside in being what God would have it to be. Oh, I thank God tonight for His blessings upon us. But with those blessings, I feel such an awesome responsibility. I hope you do, tonight. With the blessings of God upon this church and congregation, comes such awesome responsibilities. That's to share our message with this world; to stay united under Spiritual authority; to build our lives and to build this church and to do it unto the glory of God.

Never presuming on the Grace of Jes. The future has never been so bright, but you know what satan would like to do? To pull the rug out from under this church. And to get us in the same situation that the church is in Hutchinson. Just quarrelling over nothing. It's when we go with the Vision; it's when we go with the Great Commission; it's when we go with Soul Winning; when we go with building a great Bible teaching ministry; when we stay with Evangelism when we stay with the great things that Gods given us - that we're gonna move. If we fail, we will divide and we will fall in the wilderness.

I refuse to believe that we're gonna let it happen but this is for our warning. It hasn't happened - it CAN happen. God forbid that it would happen. It must not, my friends, it must not! We must move on and if we are, let us be DONE with all these things. If there's even an inkling of it in our lives, let us be done with them, with all of our hearts. This is Gods message for us tonight.

Let's stand and sing.