

The Blessing Of Escape – 1Corinthians 10:12-13

Bible Study ~ 3/1/17

Grace Church of Lockeford

Read 1-13: A proper understanding of these verses comes from the context. Paul walks the Corinthians through the Jewish history. He explains how they had all tasted of God's blessing and miraculous provision. Yet those who came out of Egypt fell away through lust, idolatry, and perversion. They tempted Christ and complained. All of this was an example for us that we would avoid their error! Because even those who had seen incredible miracles still fell away, we must be on guard. Paul presents three truths about escaping temptation. These verses serve as his conclusion to everything he has said in these first 11 verses.¹ **First...**

1. Escape Requires An Awareness Of Danger v. 12

There are two admonitions here. One veiled and the other clear. The veiled one is, be careful thinking you stand. There are repeated admonitions in Scripture about thinking too highly of yourself or thinking that you will not be tempted. There is a balance that must be maintained between pride and self-debasement. We must not be lifted up with pride, because then we will fall. But not seeing ourselves clearly can lead to problems as well. The balance is humility. Humility is not thinking less of ourselves, it is thinking of ourselves less. Be careful not to be so convinced you are standing, that you start to fall.

The clear admonition here is, be on guard against a fall. If those who saw stone tablets on which God Himself had written, who watched Him decimate Egypt with plagues, who walked through the Red Sea; if they can fall, so can we. So we need to "take heed". This Greek word literally means to "See". The idea is to watch carefully, to be cautious and prudent. Even when we think we are standing, we need to be careful that we do not fall. Pay attention, be on guard. Never think that it cannot happen to you. Know the sin that easily besets you. Know the plans and schemes of Satan. If we are going to escape temptation, we must be aware of the danger it poses. **The second truth about escape is that...**

2. Escape Requires An Absence Of Detachment v. 13a

The temptations that we face are the same that have been faced since the fall. They make take slightly different forms through the years, but the basic temptations are the same. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (*1 Jn. 2:16*)! Escaping temptation requires that we not isolate ourselves from others in the body of Christ who have faced and overcome that same temptation! We cannot become detached and think that we are the only ones who have ever faced this. We must band together to help one another. This is to be done within the context of the church. The temptations we face are faced and overcome by others. Don't detach yourself from the resources to overcome! Be aware of the danger and don't detach. Now, I'm going to teach you a new word, ready? **The third truth is that...**

3. Escape Requires An Avidity To Depart v. 13b

Avidity means eagerness. We must have an eagerness to run from temptation! The temptations we face are those faced by all men, on our own we would fall prey to them every time. But God is faithful. My favorite two words, but God! Our ability to escape sin rests in the faithfulness of God! He will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to bear it when we take the way of escape he provides. If we do not take his way of escape, it will be beyond our ability to bear.

This verse emphasizes the sovereignty of God over temptation. He will not allow the temptation to be too strong. In this case, He limits the strength of the temptation by providing the way of escape. What is interesting here is that God will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able. This means that when you are tempted and fall, it is because you have chosen to reject God's way of escape.

Overwhelming temptation is a product of disobedience. God provides a way of escape. Dwight Hunt writes that "The word *escape* (*ekbasis*) pictures an army trapped in the mountains, which then escapes

¹ Anthony C. Thiselton, [*The First Epistle to the Corinthians: A Commentary on the Greek Text*](#), New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000), 746.

through a pass. God faithfully provides the way of escape—the pass through the mountains.”² The idea is the same as what Paul wrote to Timothy, flee (2Tim. 2:22)!

When we take the way of escape that God has made, we are able to bear the temptation and avoid sin. Every time we fall into sin it is a voluntary decision we make to reject the way of escape. Doing so takes us outside of God’s perfect will and leaves us open to attack. This word “bear” is the idea of endure. We can endure temptation only as we take the escape route God makes in the test.

What a blessing it is to know that no matter how severe the trial, how difficult the test, our loving, gracious, and faithful heavenly Father always provides an escape and the ability to endure.

CHALLENGE: Take God’s escape route and find the ability to endure temptation!

V. 12

Thinks – δοκέω dokeō *think; suppose. To suppose (ungrounded) – to think or believe something; especially on uncertain or tentative grounds.*

Stands – ἵστημι histēmi *stand; stand (there). To stand (maintain) – to hold one’s ground; maintain a position; be steadfast or upright.*

“Therefore he that thinketh that he standeth, whether his apprehensions be false or true, had need use all means and caution that he may not fall, and that because, if he keepeth his standing, it must be by the use of due means, which God hath appointed in order to that end, though he be also kept by the power of God unto salvation, 1 Pet. 1:5.”³

Take heed – βλέπω blepō *see. To take care (watch) – to be careful, prudent, or watchful to do something; conceived of as watching carefully.*

Fall – πίπτω pipō *fall; fall down. To fall (suffer ruin) – to suffer defeat, failure, or ruin.*

“Let the self-confident take heed lest they fall.”⁴

“Self-confidence could lead to a spiritual fall, as it had so often in Israel’s history.”⁵

V. 13

Temptation – πειρασμός peirasmos *test; trial; temptation. Temptation – an examination with the express purpose of producing (or proving) a fault in the examinee.*

Overtaken – λαμβάνω lambanō *receive; take. To seize (affect) – to take effect on someone.*

“The temptations that seized the Corinthians were like those people had always faced. They could be met and endured by depending on God, who is faithful.”⁶

Common to man – ἀνθρώπινος anthrōpinos *human. Humanly frail – characteristic of (weak) humanity as opposed to transcendent divinity.*

“The temptation facing the Corinthians is unexceptional—Paul encourages them to resist.”⁷

Faithful – πιστός pistos *reliable; faithful; believing. Faithful – characterized by steadfast affection or allegiance (to someone or something).*

“The assurance of this verse is a permanent comfort and strength to believers. Our trust is in the faithfulness of God.”⁸

Allow – ἐάω eāō *let; permit. To let – to make it possible through a specific action or lack of action for something to happen.*

Able – δύναμαι dynamai *be able; can. To be able – to be or become sufficient to meet a need or task.*

“That God does not allow us to be exposed to irresistible temptations is a reflection of his faithfulness to his commitments to us...”⁹

Make – ποιέω poieō *make; do. To make (cause) – to make or cause to be or to become; in rare cases without pre-existing material.*

“God is not simply a spectator of the affairs of life; he is concerned and active. Believers can count on his help. He will always make a way out.”¹⁰

Escape – ἐκβάσις ekbasis *outcome; way out. Escape (means) – a means or way of escaping.*

“The Greek is, “the way of escape”; the appropriate way of escape in each particular temptation; not an immediate escape, but one in due time, after patience has had her perfect work (Jam 1:2–4, 12). He “makes” the way of escape simultaneously with the temptation which His providence permissively arranges for His people.”¹¹

““The way out” is always there right along with (συν [sun]) the temptation... It is cowardly to yield to temptation and distrustful of God.”¹²

Bear – ὑποφέρω hypopherō *endure. To endure (withstand) – to face and withstand with courage.*

“The ability to endure is given with the temptation, not apart from it.”¹³

“The believer who thinks he can stand, may fall; but the believer who flees will be able to stand.”¹⁴

“...when we find ourselves in trials and temptations, we can know that he will not put us in a situation we cannot endure, but will make it possible for us to glorify him either in the situation or in thanksgiving for our escape from it.”¹⁵

² Dwight L. Hunt, “The First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians,” in *The Grace New Testament Commentary*, ed. Robert N. Wilkin (Denton, TX: Grace Evangelical Society, 2010), 744.

³ Matthew Poole, *Annotations upon the Holy Bible*, vol. 3 (New York: Robert Carter and Brothers, 1853), 573.

⁴ Leon Morris, *1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 7, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 142.

⁵ Tom Constable, *Tom Constable’s Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), 1 Co 10:12.

⁶ David K. Lowery, “1 Corinthians,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 527.

⁷ John D. Barry et al., *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), 1 Co 10:13.

⁸ Morris, *1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 7, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, 142.

⁹ Roy E. Ciampa and Brian S. Rosner, *The First Letter to the Corinthians*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010), 468.

¹⁰ Morris, *1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 7, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, 142.

¹¹ Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, vol. 2 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 281.

¹² A. T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), 1 Co 10:13.

¹³ Hunt, “The First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians,” in *The Grace New Testament Commentary*, 744.

¹⁴ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 597.

¹⁵ Ciampa and Rosner, *The First Letter to the Corinthians*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary, 469.