

To Be Faithful

Scripture Reading — 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

God is faithful: he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. — 1 Corinthians 10:13

In our Bible reading for today, Paul gives examples from Israel's history to remind us to be faithful as God is faithful. These are grim warnings.

The people of Israel committed many sins, despite their privileged position as God's people. Does the church today need similar reminders? It certainly is easy for us to sin. Ask yourself, "How often do I act as if I don't have God's love in me?"

Paul wrote a strong letter to the Corinthian church. We know about church challenges and marriage struggles because of the people's failure to live in harmony (chap. 1, 3, 7). We learn about observing the Lord's Supper because it was misused (chap. 10, 11). Paul also deals with sexual sin (chap. 5, 6) and with problems that came up in worship (chap. 11, 14). But we also find inspiring teaching on spiritual gifts in the body of Christ (chap. 12) and a beautiful picture of Christian love (chap. 13). Truly a pastoral letter!

The Canons of Dort echo the Bible's teaching. We know that we often fail. But through his Spirit, our forever faithful God reassures us that in his strength we will endure. We will persevere. He holds us safe.

Paul points out that we are not unique. Whatever might tempt us today has tempted people always. What's more, "God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear." And "when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." Thanks be to God!

Prayer

Faithful Father, thank you for your patience and love. Guide us to be faithful. In Christ we pray. Amen.

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