Bodies Scattered In The Wilderness

1 Cor. 10:1-13 (v. 5)

Introduction:
A. God’s marvelous deliverance of Israel. (Vs. 1, 2).
B. God’s wonderful provisions for Israel. (Vs. 3, 4)
C. God’s justifiable displeasure with Israel. (V. 5).
D. God’s pointed warnings to us, using Israel as an example. (Vs. 6, 11-12).

Discussion:
I. The Warning Against Lusting After Evil Things (v. 6)
A. Not inherently evil, but made evil by their attitude. (Num. 11:4-10, 18-20).
B. Much of our world not inherently evil, but made evil by our attitudes. (Mark 4:19; Luke 8:14).

II. The Warning Against Becoming Idolaters (v. 7).
A. The Golden Calf. (Ex. 32).
B. Sensuality, not spirituality, at base of idolatry - “The people ... eat and drink ... play.” (Ex. 32:6).
   1. Such fast becoming base of modern Christianity.
   2. Same quote could apply to modern churches. (Cf. 1 Cor. 11:22, 34).

III. The Warning Against Committing Sexual Immorality (v. 8).
A. Israel, Balaam and Moabites. (Num. 25:1-9; Rev. 2:14).
B. Cannot be practiced nor tolerated by Christians. (Rev. 2:20-23; Rom. 1:32).
C. Always brings spiritual consequences, often physical. (Cf. Rom. 1:27).

IV. The Warning Against Tempting Christ (v. 9).
A. Israel tried Lord’s patience to the limit. (Ex. 17:2, 7; Num. 21:4-6).
B. Warns Christians not to provoke Him to jealousy. (1 Cor. 10:21-22).
C. Must not temp Christ by seeing how close to sin or how much sin and get away with it.

V. The Warning Against Complaining (v. 10).
A. “Murmuring” (KJV), “complaining” (NKJ), “grumbling” (NIV) mentioned about 40 times in Bible.
   1. Was productive only once. (Acts 6:1ff).
   2. Was destructive in other cases.
B. Israelites were chronic-complainers. (Ex. 16; Num. 14).
   1. Proved themselves ungrateful.
   2. Provoked the Lord to anger.
   3. Provoked Moses to sin. (Num. 20:1-10).
C. American Christians often chronic-complainers.
   1. As Americans, blessed above all nation, yet complain above all people.
   2. As Christians, blessed above all people, yet complain more that many.
D. Chronic complainers disruptive at best, destructive at worst.
   1. Like “horn blower” at stop sign - show lack of patience, consideration, and responsibility.
   2. Like 2 frogs in pond, may be few in number may sound like a million.
   4. Like Korah’s complaint, it can spread to entire congregation. (Num. 16:11; 41)

Discussion:
A. Let follow Israelites example of escaping bondage (sin) in being baptized.
B. Let us not follow their examples of sin in the wilderness.
C. “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”