

1Corinthians 18-07-08a

Good morning, welcome to the Sunday morning services at Grace and Truth Bible Church it is a privilege and honor and blessing to see each one of you and to sense the presence of those who are beyond the visual purview here This is July the 8th 2018 and we're continuing our study this morning in 1st Corinthians picking up in chapter 10 1st Corinthians chapter 10 and The Subject this morning is going to be one thing leads to another One thing leads to another kind of like Yogi Berra's definition of history Which is just one darn thing after another But this is one thing leads to another and it is a wonderful caution it is we're going to see it in terms of illustration and example and it is Compelling it is persuasive it is a reminder to us and a very practical piece of wisdom for living our lives in a way that that pleases the Lord and This is what I like. I like the practical stuff. Let me know how to get it done.

And that's what this is So let's take a moment to go to the Lord in prayer dedicate our time our fellowship and our study To the Lord Jesus and then we'll begin father we recognize Every time we think about it how dependent and reliant we are upon your strength and your provision in ourselves We are insufficient. We are inadequate. We are hopeless helpless and largely useless But through your grace and through the love of the Lord Jesus Christ expressed in his work for us on the cross We have lives that have a direction.

They have a goal. They have purpose they have meaning and Not only have you given us a measure to attain and The goal to pursue but you have given us the means and we're so grateful for that We know that these things all come to us through the Lord Jesus. We thank you for him and for his ongoing Ministry of intercession on our behalf.

We thank you for your Holy Spirit who even as we speak Brings our prayers before your throne and Makes them acceptable in your sight we thank you that we have been made acceptable in your sight and that we can claim you as our father and Recognize that we now enjoy a heavenly citizenship that prevents us from being distracted that keeps us from being too much in this world, but gives us a bright hope for the Day that is to come and reminds us that our remaining time here is a time of preparation and a time of practice to discern the better things We pray that as we look at this portion of your word together this morning that your Holy Spirit will be our teacher That you will bless it to the spiritual nourishment of each heart. We pray these things in Jesus name. Amen Let's review our chapter.

I'm not going to review the previous chapters Except to say that Paul is talking about the necessity for commitment you cannot be a Christian and Expect to be an overcomer and Just Bob like a cork in the water waiting for the creek to carry you to an inevitable destination We have to choose we have to commit. We have to pursue and persevere and This requires decisions People like to debate whether or not we actually have free will and you get your whole sovereignty of God Argument that goes back and forth with those who label themselves and each other as Calvinists and those who Claim to not be or to understand it differently But this is one of

the strongest arguments in my mind for choice Because if you do not choose if you do not decide if you don't wake up in the morning as we saw in the morning psalm In that first set of eight in the psalms Recognizing that God is our strength and our ever-present help in time of trouble that he is our recourse He is our vindicator our defender our provider He is the one that defines what our life means and what it's for And if we don't wake up in the morning and dedicate ourselves to fulfilling the potential that he's given us the default is going to lead us into fruitlessness Into being the chaff that the wind blows away. We choose whether we are grain or we are chaff we choose whether we are blown away by the wind or burned with the unquenchable fire or whether we are gathered into the barn and Useful to the one who planted us and grew us and made all the provision for us So Paul has rehearsed that in the preceding couple of chapters and has talked about that If you're going to be a boxer, you don't just throw the occasional arm into the air and say look I'm boxing You don't just take a few steps and say look.

I'm a runner we Discipline ourselves we train ourselves. We focus the use of our time the stewardship of our strength toward a Fitting goal a goal that matters a goal that partakes of eternity. This is what it is to have eternal life We say well, how am I? How do I have eternal life if I'm going to die? we are Investing we have a heavenly home.

We have a place that the Lord Jesus is going to come and take us we are Investing even now you can buy a piece of property and send the builders to start building while you're still living in your previous location, right and How nice a home do you want how much stuff do you want to have waiting on you when you finally make that trip? Well, we possess that land We possess the capital to build something on it and to furnish it and to equip it now Why do we want to go live there just because it's going to be a great retirement home Moving into the eternal future is not retirement from this life and heaving a great sigh of relief and sitting around eating peeled grapes This we're moving to a work community. We're working to Toward a place where we can continue to work and use the skills We're developing in this life God has only shown a tiny fraction of his plan and purpose and what he can do in this life We are getting promoted we are getting into the real thing When we leave this life, so Paul is exhorting the Corinthians don't get caught up here don't be so Distracted and follow earthly desires and you miss the potential that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross to give us So that was his subject in 8 and 9 and we come to chapter 10 and he says Moreover brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud all passed through the sea All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. I want you to notice and you can do this Like I'm gonna do right now.

I've got a pen and it says All our fathers were under the cloud all passed through the sea All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea all ate the same spiritual food and all Drank the same spiritual drink they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them and that rock was Christ You have five all's there and if you wanted to use the the plural verbs You could get that actually up to about eight, but there's five explicit all's Kind of like the number of books of the Pentateuch, it's a good Old Testament number it fulfills the notion of The expectations of God for Israel in the

Old Testament five all's there Look at verse five though, but with most of them and And actually it says not well pleased but the not Actually goes with most but not with most of them was God well pleased So I mean it does attach to the verb, but the word order in Greek is They all did this they all did that they all were baptized they all partook but not With most was God well pleased and you would think well with this run-up God would just be fantastically happy Because look at all of the initial Boost that they were given and all of this comes from God They were under the cloud What's the cloud? It's the physical manifestation of the personal presence of God right pillar of cloud by day pillar of fire by night It's the presence of the Lord in their midst and in their in their defense All passed through the sea was that a normal journey or supernatural God made a way through the sea So God is present God is preserving protecting and providing God Gives them the leader Moses with a direct line to God's throne room To lead them to their destination All of them eat the same food and drink the same drink Is that what it says? What does your Bible say read it out loud all of them drank the same? You can say it louder the same what? spiritual Drink they ate the same spiritual food Now if he's talking in the first order about manna and water from the rock, why does he say spiritual? Because he's not talking at first blush he's alluding To the supernatural water from the rock he's alluding to the supernatural manna from heaven But he's not talking about water from the rock, and he's not talking about manna he says those in in by implication and by Indirect Reference he's saying these things stood for something everything in Old Testament Israel was Soaked in symbolism Did the animal sacrifices take away sin you've read Hebrews right the blood of goats and bulls can never take away sin But they sacrificed the blood of goats and bulls What was really going on did they actually receive forgiveness of their sins did they actually? Make the whole burn offering commitment to God in their hearts they did but The oxen and the goats and the sheep and the rituals that the Levites performed were physical manifestations of an invisible reality pillar cloud pillar of fire Physical manifestation of an invisible reality guess what the manna and the water from the rock are Visible manifestations of an invisible reality now which one is Paul talking about here when he says spiritual food and spiritual drink Got to get this people if we go to chapter 11 You'll never we the church history will never get first Corinthians 11 right if you don't understand chapter 10 if you don't pay attention to chapter 10 What is he talking about manna and h2o from a rock or is he talking about? Spiritual drink and spiritual food that those things evoke and represent and suggest and and Affirm there's an invisible reality, right? That's what he's talking about and this is what's going to help us understand the last part of chapter 4 Is there a giant boulder rolling along behind the Israelites and every time they stop it stops? Cracks in half and water comes out the cloud rises up the Levites pack up the tabernacle They head into the wilderness the rock Reassembles itself and starts rolling behind the Israelites to their next location Listen you laugh the rabbis taught this the rabbis believed and And there's commentators that say see Paul was familiar with this rabbinical deal, and he's sort of affirming it here, and I'm thinking Yeah, right and Paul also said tie on a phylactery and nail God's law to your physical doorpost Symbols reflect represent suggest teach help us understand invisible things so when it says Not only did they all and and notice it says under the cloud go back and read Exodus Nobody was under the cloud. I would have been

scared to Stop my heart to try to get under that cloud the cloud was behind them the cloud was before them What was under the cloud a little quick Bible trivia question here? What's under the pillar of cloud? You can say it the Ark of the Covenant who is Sitting in on or around the Ark of the Covenant except God himself right it's the mercy seat You got the Ark You've got the mercy seat with the cherubim. We're talking about once the tabernacle is constructed.

Which is very soon but Who can even go into that room? Once a year the high priest with great trembling and trepidation and Sacrificial blood to sprinkle for the atonement of the entire nation right that's who's why does Paul say? Oh, they were all under the cloud. What does he mean under? What did the centurion say to the Lord Jesus I am a man under Under Authority I say to one company comes to another go and he goes it. What does it mean to be under the cloud? Are we talking physical presence or are we talking? The cloud dictated when to camp the cloud dictated when to move they were under the authority of the cloud Which is a metonymy of the adjunct meaning the cloud is associated with God They are under God's authority the cloud stands for God's presence when they're under the cloud they're under the leadership of God in the cloud and in Moses right the cloud does part of the leading for stopping and starting Going and not going for finer detail God doesn't just speak out of the cloud and say here's what to do next He communicates to Moses Moses communicates to the people so they are under the cloud and baptized into Moses Moses is the intermediary between the Israelites and God, right? Who is your intermediary? Between you and God and Who do you get baptized into? Whose body does the Holy Spirit baptize us into so you see the parallel? It's all spiritual Under the cloud is spiritual not literal Baptized into Moses, I hope is spiritual You don't have Moses as a giant composed of two million Israelites stomping through the wilderness Well, they were all baptized into the body of Moses.

It's symbolic right now I give you that absurdity to remind you of how important it is to separate the symbol from what the symbol connotes and communicates so you got your five all's in the in the first Three and a half verses there and then in the last part of verse four They drank of that spiritual rock that followed them and that rock was Christ Now if all of this is symbolic, then what is the spiritual food? That they're partaking of what does the manna represent? Well, here's an easy way to figure it out What does manna represent elsewhere in the Bible? What does Jesus mean when one of the promises to the overcomers is I will give of The hidden manna Has Jesus got a special little jar of Old Testament manna somewhere? And if you're an overcomer, he's gonna say hey, come here and share a secret with you. See this little pot over here Have a little Not literal right I'm hoping to make this memorable because you've got to remember it when we go forward and we're going forward very soon so the manna Represents spiritual food. What is the Israelites spiritual food? Every word that proceeds from the mouth of God what Moses brings down from the mountain, right? the the laws the precepts the ordinances the commandments the tables and Everything that accompanies them all of that that Moses comes down day after day with the shining face Puts a gunny sack over his head.

So people don't get spooked, right? Because he's been in the presence of God and That's their food How should we then live what sustains us? How did Caleb and Joshua live all the way through the 40 years and then go into the land and live? For many many years in the land. Was it because they ate a little more manna than everybody else or did they partake to the fullest of the spiritual food and Eat it and commit to it and live their lives by it You know, they say two million the the second census in Israel the the fighting men is about six hundred and one thousand if I remember right in numbers toward the end of numbers and So they figure well if you throw in women and children, that's how they get to the two million figure But we know for certain because Moses and Joshua counted them. There are six hundred thousand men Capable of swinging a sword in Israel at the second census So all of them but to die two out of six hundred thousand men Even Moses himself, but there's a reason I mean it's the pretext is you struck the rock but you need the old Covenant to die and the New Covenant with Yeshua to be born so it's There's a little bit of a wink there Moses really could not have gone into the land anyway without messing up a lot of what God wants to teach us and it seems Forgivable Moses was the most afflicted man that ever lived and you could forgive him for one moment of You people well, you know, he's he isn't upset with God when he strikes the rock he's not angry at the rock But he redirects his frustration with the people Because how long has he been doing this and they still haven't learned and he and and this happens a lot we often tend to afflict people we love when we have a frustration that may actually have another source and Sometimes the source is us, but we we misdirect Moses misdirects his frustration and anger at the rock But it it works out Moses gets into the land.

You remember when Moses is in the land When's Moses in the land? I'll give you a hint Peter James and John saw him He got there right before the resurrection Moses is in the Mount of Transfiguration is in the land, right? He gets there He's okay. God doesn't say well for the whole Millennial Kingdom Moses right there where Zipporah circumcised your son You know that got to stay right there on the border of Egypt and can't come into the land can't come anywhere No, he got there and what sight did he see when he got there way better than anything? Joshua saw way better than anything Caleb saw way better than any of the people that whole generation that came in and saw the fire And the hail and all the rest of it. What did Moses see? he saw The Lord Jesus himself in his glory in his glory.

So All all all but with but not with most of them was God well pleased They were strewn in the wilderness remember that that verb for strewing So Now we have Verse six these things became our Tupos Tupos this is in the plural. We transmogrify you to a Y a lot of times in transliteration hoopoe becomes hypo Who pair becomes hyper and here Tupos becomes typos types Types these things became our types for a purpose That we should not and this is still in the immaterial realm Have intense desire for evil things as They also had intense desire for evil things now here's Our subject for this morning one thing leads to another do not become idolaters as Some of them were I would cross out because that implies that they were practicing idolaters The the verb here in Greek is get him. I do not become idolaters as some of them became parentheses

became turned into fell back to type of thing as It is written the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play Now what and and answer this question out loud what incident is being referenced here People sat down to eat rose up to play You've got a text note there in your New King James number one there go down.

It says Exodus 32 6. What's in Exodus 32? Patty said it You can say it louder The golden calf right now What is the anger inducing feature of the golden calf for God? You remember the story they take a bunch of their jewelry Aaron melts it down Aaron the high priest Makes the golden calf for all the people to worship calf worship is something that you remember the Apis bull and all that back in Egypt and This represents one of the gods of Egypt Apis You'd think he would be cow us or cattle us or Bovine us or something, but he's Apis, but he doesn't look like a simian. He looks like a bull. He's a that's his representative So when Paul is is going back to this and says don't become an idolater.

What does he cite? As some of the Israelites did remember what it says they bowed down and worshiped the golden calf wouldn't that be the most heinous thing What's not in this quote of the Old Testament here Paul mentions three things. What is it? You can read it the people did what he actually did four things They sat down Actually did five things They sat down they ate they drank they rose up and they sported right sat down ate drank rose up sported Where is golden calf worship in any of that? The if that's the big insult, why does Paul skip it? Well, let's continue Nor let us commit sexual immorality as some of them did and in one day 23,000 fell This is an interesting verse in and of itself But this is a reference back to numbers Chapter 25 numbers 22 is Balaam Balak recruits him Balak has has pretty well taken over the whole region there and he's over the Moabites and the Midianites and ever all of the ites in the region Balak has Has recently come to dominance and sojourn to you over all of that. And so The Israelites have come around if you remember I'm gonna do the map in reverse for me and write for you.

Here's the here's the Dead Sea. Here's the Jordan River and remember they petitioned to go through the land of Moab and Balak said no and So they went around they took the long way around to avoid Moab and God said don't fight them Don't attack them go around them. Leave them alone.

They make this huge detour Expensive in time and resources to avoid conflict with Moab in general Balak in particular right and So now they are camped and they are 30 miles When it says at the Acacias or in the King James it says Shittim, which is the Hebrew And you can see why the New King James wanted to change it. They don't like the word Shittim But that's what it is in Hebrew and it means Trees of this type. It's that's the genus and so in the plural with aim You get it's actually a dual but it serves as a plural and it means this Grove and so they have camped there.

This is they've come around and they are 30 miles north of Moab But Balaam told Balak these people are going to eventually Destroy you instead of cursing Israel. He essentially curses Moab

Moab is my washpot. It's going to happen years in the future.

But here's the thing Balak is so nervous about that that he is going to go up and Attack them keep you stick something in Corinthians here and go back to numbers 25 because this is important Nor let this our verse 8 nor let us commit sexual immorality as some of them did and in one day 23,000 fell numbers 25 Now Israel remained in Shittim in Acacia Grove and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab Now The Moabites at this stage of history in circa 1400 BC are Nomadic like the Midianites they've not yet settled their towns. They don't have they have some but they don't have a lot of big towns They are still largely agricultural nomadic They and the Midianites both and this is one of the reasons Balak can take them over relatively easily is he doesn't have to knock down any fortifications He just comes in and sort of dominates them So when it says the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab These women the land of Moab is how far south? 30 miles if you want an idea and these women they're not just going to walk 30 miles by themselves in open country, right? How do Bedouin and nomadic types travel they travel in caravans you remember when? Ezra and Nehemiah returned to the land after the captivity of this is centuries later, but still Looking at the account you get the idea that the caravan is able to travel about nine miles a day So and that's in a little more Freight time They're bringing a lot of stuff back with them well in this day with with tents and camels and good transportation still it's going to be a Trip measured in days. They're not just going to leave their little village and wander over to the Israelites 30 miles away on foot.

They've got to be escorted. So this is a caravan movement Escorted possibly with military escort with soldiers and troops and tents and and supplies and all of that because Balak has decided that he's if he can't beat these people militarily he will subvert them by Making an alliance with them well. He's not going to convert to the God of Israel So he's got to get them to convert to his God and once they are allied once they are intertwined Once they are enmeshed they can't hurt them He's worried about them.

He doesn't know that they're already set to cross the Jordan right he says well They can't cross the Jordan the things in flood They're going to be here for months, and they're liable to turn around and attack me for more supplies So he's thinking strategically he says I've got to Eliminate this threat. I can't do it militarily, so I'm going to do it another way, so he sends This is the only way he could have done it for these women to traverse this distance they had to have been taken there and You remember now he knows the approximate size he and Balaam stood up on the mountain and looked over the camp of Israel He knows how big they are you got? 600,000 men of military age down there how many women is it going to take to subvert them? Probably 10,000 10 ellipse however you want to figure that that amount But it's it's going to be a sizable number. This isn't just you know six or seven good-looking Ladies this this is a real big group So Israel is remaining there And they began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab says a lot these women have been transported up there for this purpose they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods and the people ate and bowed down to the gods the people ate and bowed down to

the gods So it starts out as look at this great food.

We've prepared Can you smell the stew from the cooking pots these ladies have all arranged themselves up wind? The smell of the good food is coming down, and they say well. You know we're having a party tonight why don't you come there's going to be great food and so they suborn and subvert and seduce the men to come and partake of these meals, and they say Now as a part of our meal. You know at our meal.

We always say the blessing So bow your head while we say the blessing well who are they saying the blessing to? Baal pay or Baal pay or now the reason I'm going to elaborate this a little bit is twofold first of all It is going to help us understand Paul's point. Why does he not bring up the direct idolatry of the golden calf? Because one thing leads to another you start with something. That's not quite right and you end up with something.

That's really really not right and the Sensual desire for really good food and the sensual desire for really attractive women In meshes them in something that eventually leads them to Not just bow down to but covenant with the Hebrew verb is became yoked to Y-ok not y-o-l-k y-o-k-e-d They became yoked they became committed. They made a covenant with Baal pay or Paul mentions the Eating and drinking The sporting But that was in service of Worship and commitment to the golden calf Paul mentions the immorality at this day When God sends a plague look at verse 9 those who died in the plague were 24,000 and I told you that's why this verse is kind of interesting Paul says 23,000 Number says 24,000 and This is in in Old Testament interpreting circles. This is known as the problem of the missing thousand Text clearly says 24,000 Paul clearly says 23,000 there have been a few attempts to try to explain the discrepancy because Moses also tells the judges in verse 5 every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor and They say well if they killed a thousand of them, then the plague would have killed 23,000 or 24,000 total died but but Paul says in one day 23,000 fell and he had additional information that that a thousand more were sick and died the next day I mean, it's it's it's pretty weak and What I would suggest is the text is the text The book of Numbers says 24,000 the Septuagint says 24,000 Paul speaking from memory says 23,000 now it's understandable how he might have had a slip of memory if you flip over to the next page The second census of Israel I mentioned earlier, you know 601,000 total but when you get to all of the tribes enumerated and you get down toward the end of chapter 26 verse 58 these are the families of the Levites The family of the Libanites the Hebronites the Malites the mushites the Korathites Kohath begot Amram, etc.

Skip down to verse 60 to Aaron were born Nadab and Abihu Eleazar and Ithamar His four sons, but you remember in verse 61 Nadab and Abihu died when they offered profane fire before the Lord Remember that that's a real skip fire comes out They come and grab them by the corners of their cloak and carry their little crispy remains away and then they take the sensors when they try and they beat them into plates and they Cover the outside of the altar trying to keep the fire in you know here just remember the you've already dealt with people trying We won't do that again, and here's a reminder to anybody else who wants to offer Strange fire before the Lord see these

plates That's that's this what's left of the sensors of the last guys that tried that that's Nadab and Abihu Now those who were numbered of them. These are the Levites This is the final enumeration of the tribes were 23,000 every male from a month old and above they were not numbered among the other children of Israel because there was no inheritance Given to them among the children of Israel the Levites Weren't given a land inheritance because their inheritance is the Lord and I have two Competing theories in my mind for Paul's citation of 23,000 instead of 24,000 He either just had a genuine slip of memory And this is a reminder to us and a clue to us that Paul the Apostle is not perfect. I Sense that there were some errors in judgment that are recorded in Acts When he decides to take the vow in Jerusalem when he decides to try to convince James by bringing the offering of the Gentiles in That that he's off track, and you can say well.

You know the man's not perfect, but we know that already my my more subtle clue because Paul knows and has said that there are divisions in the Corinthian Church, and he says He said that there's divisions, but he's also recognizes that there must be divisions to separate those who know the truth from those who don't and those who are genuinely obedient from those who don't and my My theory my personal theory, and you won't find this written down anywhere, and I it probably doesn't have enough weight to matter But I think Paul said 23,000 Because and it's a little bit tongue-in-cheek is it true that 23,000 fell in one day If 24,000 fell 23,000 certainly fell any number smaller than 24,000 fell on that day, so he's not committing an error Paul is a Pharisee. Do you think this man knows his scriptures inside out upside down can count the consonants? Sat at the feet of Gamaliel. I don't think Paul had a slip of memory.

I think he said 23,000 to bring us to Dathan and Abiram and the notation that the Levites Had no inheritance Because their inheritance is the Lord. It's an invisible inheritance. What is he talking about in Corinthians 13 first Corinthians 13 10? And this this this first section.

It's it's the invisible spiritual food. It's the invisible spiritual drink It's the invisible presence of the Lord. It's with with manifestations They're invisibly baptized into Moses But There is an invisible pull into idolatry when you do these physical things of eating and drinking What did he introduce a couple of chapters back? He's saying don't go down to the temple just because your Corinthian friend has a two-year-old daughter Who's having a birthday party, and you say well? I know it's a temple, but this is not an actual worship service This is just a party to celebrate the guy's child so I can go down there.

I can eat and I can drink What is Paul's point one thing leads to another and when he says in one day 23,000 fell you think oh well, that's got to be the that's the whole Ball pay or incident 23,000 oh wait a minute, and then you go one chapter forward same scroll one section over Who are the 23,000 these are the priests who are supposed to have the Lord as their invisible inheritance? But in connection with that number you have the Nadab and Abihu incident and they don't even get their invisible inheritance they have the questionable distinction of Getting smoked to death

and having their sensors plating the outside of the altar So I think this is just a quick way Paul is just using these things in service of his point And when there's only one place anywhere in numbers where 23,000 has any significance And we just looked at it, and so when Paul says 23 He's saying you know I'm right about the 24,000 because 23 also fell But but look ahead to the other 23,000 that's mentioned in that context and remember Your inheritance is supposed to be the Lord, and it's invisible Well, that's that's my two cents on that but back to Corinthians chapter 10 These things became our types our examples to the intent that we should not let these desires turn toward evil You desire an invisible heritage you desire the promises to the overcomers that are only visible by faith you're not going to get a Special little tattoo that surfaces on the back of your hand saying you're saved It's 777 you've got the mark of the Lord 777 everybody else 666 you've got 777 because you're saved everything in this age is spiritual and Looking to the material is to miss the point so These examples were given to us so do not become idolaters. How did they become idolaters? They were not idolaters by practice. That's why you've got to scribble out the word were in italics there They're not practicing idolaters.

They became idolaters. How do they end up worshipping the golden calf for a single day? They started out sitting down to eat and drink and Rising up to sport they started with something more innocuous something simpler They sat down to eat and drink rose up to sport, but they ended up worshipping the golden calf Nor let us commit sexual immorality as some of them did what happened once they started Harlotry with the Midianite women They end up with a commitment to Baal Peor and throughout the Bible And there are a lot of references to the incident of Baal Peor all through the Old Testament It is never called the incident of the Midianite women ever The only people who refer to the incident of the Midianite women are atheists who say your God is so cruel look at this look At what he had the Israelites do to the women When we come back from the break, I'm going to address that in about four minutes But I'll give you the clue right now. It's not about the women It's about Baal Peor the women are the immediate Issue the immediate cause but the ultimate issue and the ultimate reason why God wipes out the Midianites those northern Midianites is all about being yoked to Baal Peor and who Baal Peor is and These are people that have already committed themselves to God and now for the sake of these women and for a sake sake of some food Who lost his inheritance the first time over food Hungry and and that desire for food Which is an innocuous desire in itself becomes an evil desire when you're willing to sacrifice your inheritance over it, right? That's Esau Same thing here.

God doesn't Fail to bless Esau with the blessings of the firstborn because he ate pottage But that's how and where it happened, right? so Paul's message here is And this is a great piece of application if you don't as a young unmarried girl if you don't want to end up Unwed and pregnant and the entire course of your life being altered Go back to the circumstances in which something like that can happen and avoid those don't try to rely on a morning-after pill or hope that you're going to have enough discipline to use some sort of Preventative measures at the last possible moment. Wait, wait, wait Let me do this that or the other so that there's not a pregnancy that ensues the way to avoid a bad result is avoid those things that lead to it because One thing leads

to another There is a way that seems right but the ends thereof are the ways of death So just because it seems right doesn't make it right Paul says there are things that that may look right for me But I don't do them because they could cause a brother to stumble it's in the realm of Perceiving and seeing the outcome of a thing remember when we were talking about ek bassus and Look at the outcome the note. No testing has befallen you but such as is common to man and with every Test God will provide a way of escape so that you can bear it We ask ourselves the question Well, if I'm going to bear it, what good is the way of escape if I escaped I don't have to bear it if I bear It I haven't escaped So, how can what good does it do for God to provide a way of escape so that I don't escape and bear it and the word there for escape is ek bassus and it means outcome God provides an outcome and When you see a good outcome Patience leads to hope and hope does not disappoint you have need of endurance so that after you suffered you inherit the promises and God provides the outcome when we've got a test God shows us.

There's meaning and purpose in that test now We don't may not know the specifics But we trust him and we know that he knows Child doesn't understand a lot of the decisions their parents make why aren't we eating right now? Why can't I have that candy right now? Why can't I have this toy? Why can't I go play? Why do I have to come in? Why do I have to go to bed? Why can't I watch this program? Why can't I why can't I and you know it's more than a parent can explain it look you got to trust me I'm doing this for your own good God will provide an outcome so that you can persevere and we believe in the reality of the outcome It's not the come-out Escape is to come out. It's the outcome and The other use of that is in Hebrews 13 7 and it says look at those who teach you the Word of God and their faith follow Looking at the ek bassus looking at the outcome of their faith you look at the result they have in their life that's motivation right there The outcome well, that's a positive outcome and it motivates us in a positive direction look at the negative outcomes of Sitting down to eat and rising up to play in inappropriate circumstances Making associations that you say well, there's no harm all I've done is walk into the temple All I've done is sit down and eat some food All I've done is drink a little wine with these people who are celebrating this wonderful occasion of the birthday Remember that in the Greek text they were talking about this is what happens in the temples in Corinth they it's it's the we were just driving by the Event center the Will Rogers event center whatever is out here way out in the middle of nowhere Suddenly here's a barn and a nice venue and it's supposed to be for receptions and things like that and you say well That's what the pagan temples were in the ancient day They were just event centers and you say I'm just going to the event center. Well, this is an event center dedicated to various gods Pagan gods and the as a part of all of the events that are celebrated there.

There is worship. There is dedication there is Toasts given to the God and worship and obeisance done to the God and if you go there for one thing you end up at something else So ek bosses is important look at the outcome of faith look at the outcome of Indulging Immediate desires. That's why he says they sat down to eat and drink and rose up to sport But why? Was there a plague at that point? golden calf Why is the Midianite thing such a big deal and why does

so many people die in association with it? It's not fornication.

There's been fornication since the earliest days it's Baal Peor and Consistently over and over again. It is called the incident of Baal Peor or God never refers to it by any name other than Baal Peor because of Baal Peor not because of Midianite women But one thing leads to another well, let's pause here and take our break