

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL

05 - TUESDAY – July 28, 2026

Learning From the Past

After providing an example of self-denial from his own experience, Paul turns more particularly toward the issue of idolatry. In a sense, 1 Corinthians 10 develops the idea of 1 Corinthians 9:27, where Paul comments that he exercises self-discipline in order not to become disqualified. He wants the Corinthians to follow his example, but Jesus is the model *par excellence* (1 Cor. 11:1).

“Privileges, Pitfalls, and the Danger of Falling”

I. Israel’s Privileges: A Parallel to the Church

Key Text:

- **1 Corinthians 10:1-5 (NKJV)** “(1) Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, (2) all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, (3) all ate the same spiritual food, (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (5) But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.”

Spiritual Privileges Israel Experienced:

1. **Divine Guidance**
 - The cloud = God’s presence and direction
2. **Divine Deliverance**
 - Passing through the sea = salvation from Egypt
3. **Spiritual Baptism**
 - “Baptized into Moses” (symbolic of commitment)
4. **Divine Provision**
 - Manna (food)
 - Water from the rock

Paul compares these to: **Baptism — The Lord’s Supper**

Key Insight: Israel had **spiritual experiences—just like Christians today**

Question 1: What sins did Israel commit in the wilderness?

Key Text:

- **1 Corinthians 10:7-11 (NKJV)** “(7) And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” (8) Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; (9) nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; (10) nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (11) Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

Answer: Israel’s Major Sins:

1. **Idolatry:** Worship of the golden calf, replacing God with visible substitutes

2. **Sexual Immorality:** Moral compromise with surrounding cultures
3. **Testing (Tempting) Christ:** Doubting God's power and faithfulness
4. **Complaining (Murmuring):** Constant dissatisfaction with God's leadership
5. **Craving Evil Things:** Desire for the old life in Egypt

Summary:

- Their sins were not just actions
- They revealed **hearts disconnected from God**

Question 2: Why do their privileges make their sins even worse?

Answer: Because Greater Privilege = Greater Accountability

Key Reasons:

1. They Knew Better

- They witnessed:
 - Miracles
 - Deliverance
 - God's presence

👉 Sin in ignorance is serious

👉 Sin with knowledge is **more serious**

2. They Experienced God Personally

- Not theory—**real encounters with God**

👉 Yet they still turned away

3. They Were Chosen and Blessed

- Called to represent God to the nations

👉 Their failure dishonored God's name

4. They Rejected Light

- The more light you reject
 - 👉 The deeper the spiritual fall

💡 **Power Statement:**

👉 **"Privilege does not protect you from falling—it increases your responsibility not to fall."**

🔥 **III. The Warning for Us Today**

📖 **Key Text:**

- 1 Corinthians 10:12

🧠 **Key Warning:**

👉 *"Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."*

⚠️ **Danger Signs:**

1. **Spiritual Overconfidence**
 2. **Assuming “It can’t happen to me”**
 3. **Ignoring personal weaknesses**
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💡 **Reality:**

👉 If Israel fell with all their privileges...

👉 **We can fall too**

? **Question 3: Do we run the same risk today?**

✅ **Answer:**

Yes—absolutely.

🔍 **Why?**

- We have:
 - Scripture
 - Church
 - Truth
 - Knowledge of Christ

👉 Yet we can still:

- Drift into sin
 - Become complacent
 - Rely on past experiences
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🔥 **IV. The Promise: God Provides a Way of Escape**

Key Text:

- **1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV) “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”**
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🧠 **Key Truth:**

- Every temptation comes with:
 - 👉 **A way of escape**
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? **Question 4: Why do we still fall into sin if God provides a way of escape?**

✅ **Answer:**

🔥 **Because we often choose not to take the escape**

🧠 **Deeper Reasons:**

1. We Enter Situations Carelessly

- We don’t guard our environment
 - We walk into temptation unprepared
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2. We Ignore the Warning Signs

- The Spirit convicts—but we resist
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3. We Desire the Sin

- 👉 Sometimes we don't want the escape
 - 👉 We want the experience
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4. We Overestimate Our Strength

- "I can handle it" mindset
- 👉 This is exactly what Paul warns against
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5. We Delay Obedience

- Escape requires **immediate action**
 - Delay leads to defeat
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💡 Power Statement:

👉 **"The way of escape is always there—but it must be chosen."**

🔥 V. Lessons From Israel for Today

✨ Key Takeaways:

- Spiritual experiences do not guarantee spiritual stability
 - Privilege increases responsibility
 - Sin often begins with misplaced desire
 - Overconfidence leads to downfall
 - God's grace always provides a way out
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🎯 VI. Final Summary

- Israel's history is **our warning**
- Their failure is **our lesson**
- Their privilege mirrors **our privilege**

👉 The issue is not:

"Do we have enough truth?"

👉 The issue is:

"Are we walking in the truth we already have?"

🔥 Closing Challenge

- 👉 Don't trust your strength
 - 👉 Don't rely on your past
 - 👉 Stay dependent on God daily
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🙏 Closing Appeal

"Lord, keep me from spiritual pride. Help me recognize temptation and choose the way of escape. Let my privileges lead me closer to You—not further away."