**Sermon Title: The Warning About Carnal Living in a Christless Culture, Part 1**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-5**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to avoid the disqualification illustrated by Israel in the wilderness.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 benefits and blessings that a Christian can presume upon.**

**Definition:** Disqualified (adokimos) reprobate, rejected, unfit, failing to stand the test, castaway.

**Introduction:** This text is a warning shot over the barrel of the believer’s life, against forfeiting obedience to a Holy God, for the “rights” we have in an idolatrous, pluralistic, and syncretistic culture. Paul recalls for us the displeasure of the Lord God with Israel, as a people in the wilderness, when they provoked Lord to jealousy…

**1 Corinthians 10:22** Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

…because of their idolatry, apathy, carnality, and complacency. This example is written for our edification today!

**2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-- unless indeed you are disqualified.

 “The perseverance or security of the believer is a great doctrine of the Word of God. But it has been abused and misused, to the neglect of the warnings of Scripture. The result has been devastating leading to false security and over confidence in the church.”

[**The Preachers Outline & Sermon Bible, I & II Corinthians. Volume 8 New Testament King James Version, p.130**]

**I. The 1st benefit and blessing to presume upon is God’s protection. V.1**

**II. The 2nd benefit and blessing to presume upon is our Godly personal identity. V.2**

**III. The 3rd benefit and blessing to presume upon is God’s provisions. Vv.3-4**

**IV. The 4th benefit and blessing to presume upon is God’s punishment. V.4**

**I. The 1st benefit and blessing to presume upon is God’s protection. V.1**

 A. Protection because of God’s **guidance**. V.1a

 (Holy Spirit)

 **Exodus 13:21-22** And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. **22** He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night *from* before the people.

 B. Protection because of God’s **deliverance**. V.1b (**Deuteronomy 8:11-20**)

 **Deuteronomy 8:14-15** "when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; **15** "who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, *in which were* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;

 **Deuteronomy 8:19** "Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

 **Deuteronomy 12:1-4** "These *are* the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. **2** "You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. **3** "And you shall destroy their altars, break their *sacred* pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. **4** "You shall not worship the LORD your God *with* such *things*.

**II. The 2nd benefit and blessing to presume upon is our Godly personal identity. V.2**

 A. Our personal identity with our Spiritual **Leadership**. V.2a

 B. Our personal identity with our saving **Lord**. V.2b

 **Romans 6:1-4** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? **3** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**III. The 3rd benefit and blessing to presume upon is God’s provisions. Vv.3-4**

 (Day to Day necessities, Bread of Life Christ)

 A. He provided them with spiritual **nourishment**. V.3

 Milk & Meat, His Word, etc.

 **Exodus 16:4** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.

 B. He provided Christ’s **presence** and sustaining **power**. V.4

 “I am the Bread of Life”

 **Deuteronomy 32:4** *He is* the Rock, His work *is* perfect; For all His ways *are* justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright *is* He.

 **Psalm 18:2** The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

 C. He provided **physical** nourishment.

**IV. The 4th benefit and blessing to presume upon is God’s punishment. V.4**

 (2 million people)

 **Numbers 14:29** `The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

 **Numbers 14:37** those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the LORD.

 **Numbers 26:65** For the LORD had said of them, "They shall surely die in the wilderness." So there was not left a man of them, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

 **Hebrews 12:5** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

 Critical question: “How many remained faithful to God through the wilderness journey? How many actually turned away from fleshly desires around by delicious food, drinks, bodily simulation of Egypt and the world?” “How many actually disciplined their bodies, subjected their desires, and kept their eyes and hearts upon the promised land and **their God**? Only two entered the promised land, Caleb and Jacob. Over 2-3 million perished or were disqualified.” [**Ibid. p.131**]

**Conclusion:** The disqualification Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 9:27, is illustrated by Israel for the church today. How foolish it would be for us to not heed the warning of their example, so that we may avoid being overthrown in the Christless culture and miss out on the full blessings of our inheritance, because of carnal living!