

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican
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HAVE YOU PAID TOO MUCH FOR A WHISTLE?

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:13 NAS).

Here is a quote from Thomas Fleming, in *The Man Who Dared The Lightning*. “When Benjamin Franklin was seven years old, a visitor gave him some small change. Later, seeing another boy playing with a whistle, young Benjamin gave the boy all his money for it. He played the whistle all over the house, enjoying it until he discovered that he had given four times as much as the whistle was worth. Instantly, the whistle lost its charm. As he grew older, Franklin generalized this principle. When he saw a man neglecting his family or business for political popularity, or a miser giving up friendship for the sake of accumulating wealth, he would say, ‘He pays too much for his whistle.’”

The above story has an excellent lesson in it: Too often we pay too great a price for something that looks so good and promises so much. Fish are hooked because they are attracted to something that looks like food and would make a good meal only to become food themselves. Do not be fooled, the world offers you whistles that are not worth the price.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (NASB)

1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. 6 Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved. 7 And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play.” 8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. 9 Nor

let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. 10 Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtake you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

Sometimes we want something so much that we stop thinking of its value and overspend to get it. This is not sound reasoning. Benjamin Franklin learned an important lesson in life with the purchase of his whistle. What lessons have you learned along the journey of your life?

Today's text shares an interesting story; Though God brought Israel out of Egypt, He was not happy with His people and their behavior. Please take note that God does observe our lives and He evaluates our behavior also. How wise are you in the eyes of the Living God? Know this; He is not fooled, or blind to our poor behavior.

This story is told so that we might learn something from it. Israel wanted stuff that wasn't good for them and the stuff they were seeking was destroying their relationship with God. Are you seeking stuff that displeases God and is hurting your relationship with Him?

What were those evils? Idolatry, immorality, they were trying God (seeing how close to the edge they could get) and they were grumbling. In short they were so intent on their wants and their desires that they had lost their dependence on and trust in their Creator. Unfortunately man has not changed much. We still get distracted by stuff and slowly drift away from our devotion to God and His Son. How are you doing in this area of your life?

So What Shall We Do?

Our relationship with God is the most important relationship you will ever form. This relationship must be maintained and built upon so that you become closer and more trusting in our Heavenly Father. We all need to take a stand with God and forsake the stuff that puts space between us and our Creator.

Troubles will come and troubles will go. How we face those troubles and what we learn from them will either draw us to God, or away from Him. Benjamin Franklin learned from his whistle experience. Are we learning from ours?

Remember this; God has a way of escape for us in every temptation. That way is to turn to Him, trust Him, obey Him and yield to Him. When we do we will find victory, and our relationship with Him will grow and become what it needs to be. Will you draw near to God or would you rather have the stuff of this life? Your decision will determine how God sees you and what your future holds.

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