

The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 2:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

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For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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The Way of Escape - Renn Ferguson

The Bible is an extremely encouraging book. Though it may seem like there are many passages with strict commandments there are also many passages with encouraging words. One of the scriptures that encourage me the most is 1 Corinthians 10:13. Here Paul wrote, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” The reason why this passage is so encouraging to me is because it is something that everyone needs. Temptation is a part of life that we will always have to deal with. In this passage there are three phrases that should bring us much strength and comfort.

The first is “no temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man...” What Paul is saying here is that we will not face a temptation that is particular to only us. One of the ways we can find strength to endure temptation is by knowing that others have had to endure it before us. This is another benefit of what James commanded us in James 5:16, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” One benefit of confessing to others is the fact that those who have struggled with similar things will be able to help us overcome it. There is nothing that we have to face today that no one has ever faced before. The temptations that we face are the same temptation that man has faced from the beginning of time.

The second is, “God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability...” Paul reminds us that God is faithful. There is not a promise that our God makes that He does not keep. God has never forced us to be obedient to Him, He has always given us the freedom of choice. This is very clearly seen in a number of passages (Genesis 3; Joshua 24:15, to name a couple). In the same thread we see in John 10:27-29 that men cannot force us to be disobedient to God either. God in 1 Corinthians 10:13, promised us that He would not allow us to be tempted beyond our strength to resist. Since God is faithful to always keep His promise we can know that no matter what temptation we face, we do have the strength to overcome it.

The third is, “but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” This is the second part of God’s promise. The way that He fulfills this promise is by providing a way to escape temptations. Now, He does not specify exactly how this will be manifested every time. It could be similar to Joseph in Genesis 39:11-12. For him the best way to avoid sin was to literally flee. It may sound odd but in certain cases this may be the best thing to do. God assures us that every single time we are tempted there will be some way we can escape it. Since we have this promise from God we ought to stop every time we are tempted and try to find some way of escape.

This passage has encouraged, and strengthened me in times of temptations. I hope looking at these three things in a little bit more depth has encouraged and strengthened you as well.