1Co 10:5-10  But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. (6) Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. (7) Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. (8) Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. (9) Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. (10) Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

1. Very often as we are reading through the New Testament, we will come across places where the New Testament writers reach back into the Old Testament to teach us some great truth.
   a. There are lots of examples - good and bad - from which we can learn valuable lessons.
   b. The Old Testament is kind of like the flashing yellow light at an intersection - It is a warning! And we should always pay careful attention to warnings!

2. In our text, Paul reaches back to several passages from the Old Testament to outline for the church of Corinth the five big sins of Israel.
   a. I say five “big sins” because if you read through the Old Testament, there were a lot of sins in Israel.
   b. But Paul specifically mentions these five because the church of Corinth had the same kind of problems.

3. Corinth was the New York City of ancient Greece. Whatever you wanted, Corinth had it. Anyone who was important had been there and partied in its streets.
   a. Corinth had the temple of Aphrodite - the Greek goddess of love, pleasure, and procreation.
   b. You could offer up a sacrifice to this false god and then stick around for a while to enjoy the temple prostitutes - all in the name of religion.

4. The Corinthian believers had grown up in this kind of environment and they had gotten used to it. We don't have time to go back to chapter 5 but it is obvious that the sins of society had crept into the church!

5. Notice how he starts the chapter (1 Cor 10:1-4)

1Co 10:1-4  Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; (2) And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; (3) And did all eat the same spiritual meat; (4) And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

6. Israel is a picture of God’s people. And just as Israel was delivered from Egypt, so the believer is delivered from slavery to sin, the world, and Satan.

7. And according to 1 Cor 10:1-4, they began with all the blessings of God upon them. But beginning well, or experiencing blessings along the way doesn’t guarantee spiritual success does it?
   a. But after Israel was set free from Egypt, they continued to struggle with the same old sins of their flesh.
   b. Yet God was very patient with them.

8. 1 Cor 10:5 says pretty clearly that even though God brought them all out of Egypt, some of them did not make him very happy!
   a. Even though they had all of their religious activity, all of their past blessings - it still didn’t matter!
   b. They were carnal and God was not pleased!
c. As a result, they never made it to the Promised Land.

9. Now, let’s remember that the Promised Land is not heaven. It is a picture of the abundant Christian life - a life of victory and freedom!
   a. And many believers today are just like those carnal and disobedient Jews who died in the wilderness.
   b. They could be victorious over their flesh if they wanted to but they CHOSE to continue in their old sins!

10. Israel was greatly blessed by God. But all the blessings on their lives were marred by the five deadly sins that we read in our text.

11. So let’s consider what this passage says and let’s heed the warnings – the flashing yellow lights – and let’s examine our lives to make sure none of these things mar our lives like they did the nation of Israel:

   THE SIN OF LUST (1 COR 10:6)

   1Co 10:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

1. Paul is making reference back to Numbers 11:4-6 so let’s go back and see exactly what happened:

   Num 11:4-6 And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? (5) We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: (6) But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

2. See what happened here? It was not the kind of lust that most of us were thinking. No, this is not in any way a sensual thing at all.

3. You see, lust can be manifest in a sensual way but it can also be manifest in other ways as well.

4. In the case of the people in our text, they lusted after the fine foods of Egypt!
   a. They had forgotten all about the slavery and the only thing they could think of was how good the food tasted!
   b. They complained about God’s provision and acted like God had done this a disservice by setting them free.

5. They actually despised the manna that God had provided to sustain them.

6. I wonder how many of us sometimes reminisce about the old days when we used to do this or that? I wonder how many of us have our sights set on Egypt?

7. We need to learn how to be content with God’s provision.

   THE SIN OF IDOLATRY (1 COR 10:7)

   1Co 10:7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

1. This is an obvious reference to the time that Moses came down off the mountain and saw the children of Israel throwing a huge idolatrous party:
Exo 32:1-6  And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. (2) And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. (3) And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. (4) And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. (5) And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD. (6) And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

2. No matter how you look at what happened, it was clearly idolatry.
   a. And yet, in order to make it look more respectable, notice what Aaron says in verse 5, “To morrow is a feast to the LORD”
   b. What a powerful attempt to try and justify their sin.

3. I wonder how many of us have been guilty of trying to justify our own forms of idolatry?

4. And the sad thing is, this big idolatrous party happened at the foot of the mountain where God had given his holy law!
   a. Aaron had an opportunity to shine as a godly leader.
   b. But he failed miserably in a time when he had an obligation to lead the children of Israel closer to the LORD. Instead, he led them further away.
   c. I wonder how many fathers in our circles love their “idols” so much that they are leading their families further away from the LORD?

5. The way out of idolatry is to destroy the idol. Moses ground the golden calf to powder (Exo 32:20).

Exo 32:20  And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

   a. Get the idol(s) out of your life. Consecration to the Lord is a must (Exo 32:29).

Exo 32:29  For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

   b. Atonement is necessary to cover the sin of idolatry (Exo 32:30).

Exo 32:30  And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.

THE SIN OF FORNICATION (1 COR 10:8)

1Co 10:8  Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

1. I don’t think there is a more prevalent sin in our society today than the sin of fornication.
   a. The only sin I think might be more widespread is pride.
   b. But as far as an outward sin, this one is very prevalent.
2. This reference is from Numbers chapter 25 where Israel fell into sin with the daughters of Moab.
   a. Listening to me young men, the daughters of Moab may be enticing but they are off limits!
   b. The daughters of Moab have conquered many strong men who could not be conquered by the sword.
   c. Think back to Genesis chapter 6! The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair and they took all that they chose. And that caused a lot of problems!

3. Can I ask a simple question? What good could ever come from sexual sin?
   a. You lose your testimony. Don't you know that the lost are mocking you and the spiritual look upon your with disgust?
   b. You lose your fellowship with God. You might pray and come to church but God is not listening! Your sins have separated you from him.
   c. You lose the spiritual power to stand against other temptations. I've never seen an adulterer or fornicator stop at just one sin!
   d. In time, your life is a total mess and you wonder how it ever got this way.

4. I want you to take note of what the end result was – death!

   Num 25:1-9 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. (2) And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. (3) And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. (4) And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel. (5) And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor. (6) And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. (7) And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; (8) And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. (9) And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.
   a. Now, I readily admit to you that this is a very gruesome passage. But what does it show me?
   b. It shows me how serious God is about this sin!

5. Now, before we move on I know a few of you, if you were paying attention, noticed that 1 Cor 10 said 23,000 died but Numbers 25 said, 24,000 died.
   a. But I Cor 10 said that 23,000 died in one day.
   b. The Jews believed that the first day 23,000 died and the second day 1,000 more died. So that's why the difference.

6. May I just be practical for a moment? Every Christian wants to marry a godly person.
   a. Do you think that someone who commits the sin of fornication is actually godly? Do you really want to marry a fornicator?
b. How could you think that someone who would do that to themselves, and you, would later somehow become a model believer?

c. Oh sure, you might claim God’s grace and I thank God for it. But that still gives you no excuse for disobedience.

d. You are playing with fire if you think like that. You will get hurt and who knows how much of an impact it will have on others around you?

7. The New Testament has a lot to say about this sin. Notice the following passages:

1Co 6:18  *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

1Co 7:2  *Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.*

1Th 4:3-5  *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: (4) That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; (5) Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:*

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**THE SIN OF TEMPTING CHRIST (1 COR 10:9)**

1Co 10:9  *Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.*

1. This reference takes us back to Numbers 21:4-6:

Num 21:4-6  *And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. (5) And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. (6) And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.*

2. I know it sounds unbelievable, but there are actually believers who are discontent about the way that God has chosen for them to travel in life.

3. And when they begin to complain about this, they are in reality, tempting the LORD.

   a. The children of Israel were discouraged by God’s way. Then they rebelled against God’s will. And then finally they felt the sting of God’s chastening.

   b. Now consider this thought: Those who will not walk in God’s way will feel the sting of the serpent.

4. They were discontented with the path that God had chosen for them. Then they began to complain against Moses.

   a. Moses had been telling them, "Go this way, go that way". But they started complaining about it.

   b. It’s kind of like believers today. The preacher tells them what God says about how to live and they complain about it.

5. The direction away from tempting Christ is to trust Christ. He knows what he is doing; trust Him.
a. You might not understand why he wants you to go a certain way or live a certain lifestyle.

b. But just follow him! Christ knows what he is doing!

**THE SIN OF MURMURING (1 COR 10:10)**

*1Co 10:10* Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

1. This reference takes us back to a couple of places in Numbers 14:

*Num 14:1-5* And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. (2) And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! (3) And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? (4) And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. (5) Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

a. These folks never seemed to get it. God was with Moses and when they complained against God’s man, God took it personally!

b. In fact, notice the end of the chapter:

*Num 14:26-37* And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, (27) How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me. (28) Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: (29) Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, (30) Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. (31) But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. (32) But as for you, your carcases, they shall fall in this wilderness. (33) And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness. (34) After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise. (35) I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die. (36) And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, (37) Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD.

2. I just don't understand the character of man.

a. Moses was trying to lead them but they didn't like it and they began to murmur against him and God.

b. They were actually going to choose a new leader and go back into slavery because they didn't like godly leadership!

3. According to verses 36, 37 God judged them speedily!

**CONCLUSION**
1. None of us are above these sins. They can creep into our lives and cause any one of us to fall!

*iCo 10:11-12* Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. (12) Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

   a. That’s is the reason that Paul points this out. He knew how easy it would be for the church at Corinth to go this way.

   b. He also knew that sometimes we think we are doing okay when in reality, we are on the very edge of falling!

2. So we have been given a strong warning. But then this warning is followed by a great promise:

*iCo 10:13* There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

   a. God is faithful – He will never leave us to face temptation alone. He will never leave us defenseless.

   b. God is powerful – He limits the intensity of the temptation so that we do not face more than we can handle!

   c. God’s provision – Along with every temptation, God provides an escape door that we may flee to safety!