

LISTEN UP!

I Cor 10:1-22

I. O.T. FUNCTION for CHRISTIANS

- A. Augustine: N.T. concealed in O.T.; O.T. revealed in N.T., so Marcion wrong to delete O.T.
- B. Christians have a “new” way for good reasons—Christ fulfills Law, replaces temple sacrifices
- C. Ancient/Medieval ways (cf. Origin, Ambrose, Augustine, Gregory I, Aquinas) of using O.T.
 - 1. Historical/literal—taking text at face value (date of Exodus, Egyptian rulers)
 - 2. Allegorical/mystical—finding spiritual truths in text (e.g. deliverance from Egypt akin to deliverance from sin; Noah’s ark akin to Church)
 - 3. Anagogical—discerning prophetic materials (e.g. Christological reading of Psalms)
 - 4. Moral—finding ethical precepts, lessons in historical record
- D. Paul reminds readers of Israelites’ wilderness years & sins eliciting God’s judgment
- E. History’s import
 - 1. Oliver Cromwell re education for his son: “I would have him learn a little history.”
 - 2. More an art than a science, requiring prudence discerning realities
 - 3. Much like one’s memory (frequently flawed), essential to live well.

II. WARNINGS

- A. Idolatry: worshipping various hand-made objects, elevating creation over Creator
 - 1. Material objects—statues, trees, stars, animals
 - 2. Francis Bacon’s “idols”: Cave “Shielatism”); Tribe (Nordic race); Marketplace (“invisible hand”); Theater (Platonism).
 - 3. Institutional: Benjamin Wiker: *Worshipping the State: How Liberalism Became Our State Religion*
 - a. Machiavelli, Henry VIII (publishing 1539 *Great Bible*); Thomas Hobbes; Baruch Spinoza; help develop a liberalism that was non- if not anti-Christian; “To sum up Spinoza’s kind of Christianity: You don’t need the Nicene Creed of you’re nice. People who fight over inconsequential dogmas are not nice. They’re intolerant.”
 - b. Barack Obama’s devotees fainted at his rallies, messianic claims were attached to his agenda, and Obama promised a fundamental “transformation” of America. He said: that “this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and the planet began to heal.” Jamie Foxx urged fans to “give an honor to God and our lord and savor Barack Obama.” Chris Matthews enthused: “This is the New Testament” and “I feel this thrill going up my leg.”
 - c. G. K. Chesterton: ““It is only by believing in God that we can ever criticize the Government. Once abolish . . . God, and the Government becomes the God. That fact is written all across human history The truth is that Irreligion is the opium of the people. Wherever the people do not believe in something beyond the world, they will worship the world. But, above all, they will worship the strongest thing in the world”” (p. 1).
 - d. Illustrations: “winter solace” instead of Christmas; naturalistic evolution dogma; abortion
- B. Immorality: idolators (e.g. Baal devotees) often immoral
 - 1. Fornication—sexual deviance (adultery; sodomy; bestiality).
 - 1. Murder—infants sacrificed in Canaan and Chicago
 - 2. Stealing—devious schemes, unjust taxation
 - 3. False witness—propaganda, social media posts (evident in *Shepherds for Sale*)
- C. Testing God
 - 1. Challenging His authority, following own (whether personal or communal) inclinations
 - 2. Presuming on His mercy
 - 2. Living as if He Is Not (practical atheism)
- D. Murmuring
 - 1. Complaining: finding fault (especially with leaders, i.e. Moses) —gossip, anonymous letters,
 - 2. Agitating: urging disobedience (some Israelites in wilderness)—today’s Critical Race Theory infiltrating schools, agencies, churches

III. ASSURANCES

- A. Resisting temptation, enduring tests—nothing new & God has proven trustworthy
- B. Demons’ role in temptations (ancient worldview shared by Paul; current concern in some areas)
- C. Sustenance via Participation in Christ : His Body; His Blood—Eucharist, both physical and mystical)

