



1 Corinthians 10:1-4_“And the Rock was Christ!”

February 9, 2014

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

The last few chapters have been a bit heavy...lots to think about and a huge call to sacrifice given. As we continue to absorb what the Holy Spirit is teaching us there, I thought it prudent to just take the first four verses of chapter ten and meditate a bit on the goodness of God!

Yes friend, as Paul emphatically implies, it was the pre-incarnate **Christ** who led God’s people in the wilderness! Aren’t you glad He still leads? Make no mistake: **Jesus** is God!

Joh 1:1-3 ESV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Joh 10:30 ESV I and the Father are one.

*Joh 8:56-59 ESV Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." (57) So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" (58) **Jesus** said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." (59) So they picked up stones to throw at him, but **Jesus** hid himself and went out of the temple.*

Col 1:15-18 ESV He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (16) For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. (17) And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (18) And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

*Tit 2:11-13 ESV For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, (12) training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, (13) waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior **Jesus Christ**,*

Jesus . . .

- Uncaused, creating the Universe *Ex Nihilo* (out of nothing), Sustainer, the Eternal Word, the Son of God and God the Son, Forgiver, Healer, Captain of our souls, the Lamb of God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the “I AM,” Savior, Redeemer, Friend, and the Rock of our Salvation.
- Led his people then, and leads his people now!
- Oh, friends, he is worth living for and he is worth dying for! He is worth loving and he is worthy of obeying!

*Tis so sweet to trust in **Jesus**, just to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise, just to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I’ve proved him o’er and o’er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious **Jesus**! O for grace to trust him more!*

Our Text Today:

“...that our fathers” (v1)

1. In these verses, Paul, still concerned with admonishing the Corinthians to reject **selfishness** and idolatrous ways, refers them back to “our fathers.”
2. This is reference, in context, of the generation Moses led out of Egypt. As we’ll see next week, Paul will make the case that they **did not** do what God told them to do and fell into idolatry. Paul uses them primarily as an example of what **not** to do.
3. This is shown to be all the more devastating in light of the fact that **CHRIST** loved them and led them. They were being cared for by the Lord supernaturally, and still rebelled!
4. I also find it interesting that he uses the term “our fathers” when talking to a church that was primarily gentile (non-Jews):
 - a. Could it be that ethnicity isn’t as important as spiritual lineage?
 - b. *Rom 2:27-29 ESV* Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. (28) For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. (29) But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.
 - c. In other words, those of us who by faith receive **Christ** consider the Old Testament patriarchs “our fathers” due to our inward conversion to **Christ**, not due to any outward rituals or physical DNA.
 - d. God has only had ONE covenant people in **Christ**; those who looked forward to His coming and believed and those of us who look back at His cross and believe.

“...under the cloud” (v1)

1. This is reference to the cloud that led the children of Israel out of Egypt by day. There was also a pillar of fire that led them by night.

Exo 13:17-22 ESV When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt." (18) But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle. (19) Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here." (20) And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. (21) And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. (22) The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

2. Again, Paul is about to connect all this goodness on behalf of God with the people’s **unfaithfulness** as we’ll see next week. But for today, can we just rejoice that God *was and is* so interested in leading and protecting His people?!? Hallelujah!!!
3. May I joyfully suggest that we, God’s people, are still “under the cloud”?

Rom 8:14-15 ESV For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (15) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

4. He still **leads** us! He has not left us alone! He will never forsake us!! *Deu 31:6 ESV* Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

“...all passed through the sea” (v1)

1. This is a reference to the Red Sea deliverance.

Exo 14:13-22 ESV And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. (14) The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." (15) The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. (16) Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. (17) And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. (18) And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen." (19) Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, (20) coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. (21) Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. (22) And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

2. The same God that said “fear not,” the same God that fought for them and said “go **forward**,” the same God that had His “angel” move from leading to protecting, and the same Lord that drove the Red Sea waters back and divided them through the hand of Moses is the **same** God that lives in you, loves you, and protects you!
3. Much could be said on who The Angel of the Lord may be (<http://www.gotquestions.org/angel-of-the-Lord.html>), but suffice to say that in the Old Testament when The Angel appears, he looks and sounds a lot like the Lord (Ex 3:2-4)!
4. *Exo 13:21 ESV And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.*
5. And the Rock was **Christ**!

“...and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea” (v2)

1. Paul calls the Red Sea experience a sort of baptism, just as he is about to imply that the “food” and “drink” experience of Israel is a sort of Lord’s Supper.
2. In other words he’s making the case that they participated in what amounts to “type” or “prefiguring” of New Testament **sacraments**: with Moses as Israel’s deliverer prefiguring **Christ** who is the ultimate deliverer.

“...all ate the same spiritual food” (v3)

1. Sadly, you can already see the people’s attitude shifting, despite the **goodness** of the Lord!

Exo 16:4-8 ESV Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. (5) On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." (6) So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, (7) and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" (8) And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him--what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD."

2. Keep in mind that at this point Israel had seen the Red Sea, the plagues, the Cloud and the Fire!

“...all drank the same spiritual drink” (v4)

1. Similarly...

Exo 17:1-7 ESV All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. (2) Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" (3) But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" (4) So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." (5) And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. (6) Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. (7) And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

2. Oh, friends, let's not do this! Our God is a Wonder!

3. Let's not forget His power among us, His mighty hand in saving us, His certain **promise** that He's coming again!

4. **Let's bless Him today for his daily bread and provision, his grace and mercy, his consistent deliverance, and his forgiveness when we act unsatisfied with his many and manifold blessings! ☺**

Psa 97:1-12 ESV The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! (2) Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. (3) Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around. (4) His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. (5) The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth. (6) The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory. (7) All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods! (8) Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD. (9) For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. (10) O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked. (11) Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. (12) Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

...For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. (v4)

1. Interestingly, in Paul's day there was a Jewish teaching/legend that the literal, physical rock Moses struck actually followed the children of Israel in their wilderness wanderings to provide water.

2. Paul's entire commentary here is to demonstrate types and shadows of **Christ**. Paul identifies the "Rock" as both spiritual (not an actual stone) and as the activity and **mercy** of **Christ**!

3. In other words, he gives glory to **Jesus** for providing for Israel!

The Point:

- By framing Israel's escape from Egypt and subsequent provision in terms of activity of **Christ**, he's preparing the Corinthian church to see again, from a different angle, the love of the Lord and how worthy Christ is of the sacrifice of **holiness**.
- He's essentially saying to Corinth that, "the same **Jesus** who blesses you, blessed our fathers. Yet they still rebelled; do not do likewise!"
- Think about the goodness of **Christ** towards Israel! From the escape from Egypt, He taught them about his coming salvation (baptism in the Red Sea, the Lord's Supper in the wilderness).
- **Even then Christ was leading, providing, protecting, teaching, loving, forgiving, blessing, delivering, guiding, covering, and fighting for His children!!**
- Oh, the salvation of **Christ**! Oh, the mercy of the Lord! "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker." (Ps 95:6)

And the Rock was Christ!