

A Christian in Profession, Practice & Performance 1 Cor. 10:1-14

- So how have we been doing with exerting some spiritual sweat this week?
- Are we seeing any spiritual progress... spiritual fruit in our daily lives?
- How much are we really putting into seeing spiritual growth take place?

Why are we here? Is it about a profession... practice... performance?

Being a Christian is more than just a profession of faith... isn't it?

Being a Christian is more than just being in training... in practice... right?

Being a Christian is more than just performing... checking off boxes... ???

It's the combination of these 3 that make up the Christian life... There is however, much that gets us sidetracked... & sometimes even disqualifies us!

Galatians 4:8-9 – We easily get enslaved by weak and worthless principles!
Examples: _____

Philippians 3:19 - Our god can become our stomach & our minds can get set on earthly things! Examples: _____

H.C. #95 "Idolatry is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed himself in his Word."

Idolatry is not just a "trust in" other things for salvation, but a grasping at, & clinging to, those things for comfort, happiness, purpose, significance, etc.

Idolatry happens, not just when we remove God from His rightful place, but also when we place other things "alongside of" Him that crowd Him out!

There are many things that we place in competition with God, & His ways, in our lives! Just look at our calendars... to do lists... checkbooks... priorities...
We worship the thing(s) we give our time, energy, passion, & resources to!

What are those things in your life, and in the life of your family? Name them:

When we give into idolatry, we run the risk of disqualifying ourselves in the race of faith! Only a faith in profession, practice, & performance will endure!

The Apostle Paul, in 1 Cor. 10, gives an example of when God's people failed, & disqualified themselves from the privileges & promises of the faith!

God's people, during this time of the Exodus, were a people by "profession only"! They knew who they were... What God had done... They were experiencing God's gifts/provisions, but profession alone proved not enough!

1 Corinthians 10:1-5... God was not pleased with them, & they wandered in the wilderness as a result of their practice-less, & performance-less, faith!

Vs. 7 - "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." This "play" was not in the sense of "getting in the game", but in the sense that they were "playing a game" - saying one thing & doing something else!

A person can say whatever they want, they can even be blessed with great gifts from God, but if they never get in the game, it's all for nothing!

God's people used their "profession", as a license not to have to "practice" (put in the work), and when gametime came... their "performance" stunk!!!

A "profession only" faith makes us susceptible to deception! When God's people arrived at Mt. Sinai, their true selves (as idolators) were exposed!

When our faith is not informed, & practiced, the results can be devastating!

A "profession only" faith makes us susceptible to distraction! When God's people were in the plains of Moab they were seduced into sexual immorality, & even more pagan worship, because their focus was misplaced!

We are easily led astray, & our focus taken off Christ & His Kingdom, when we are on the sideline, not putting forth spiritual sweat in the game!

A "profession only" faith makes us susceptible to dissatisfaction! When God's people didn't get from God what they wanted, they wanted out!

When we are not actively participating in the game & working towards winning the victory, we tend to grumble and play the blame game instead!

All the choices God's people made had consequences... They wandered in the wilderness, 23k died in a day, destroyed by serpents, destroyed by the Destroyer, & only 2 ever received the promised land... the rest perished!

The same holds true for God's people today... Our choices have consequences!

Paul shares this as "instruction" ... as examples of what not to do... His hope is that we, God's people today, will learn from, & live out a "3-P" kind of faith! That his words in **1 Cor. 10:31**, would ring true... & that when we gather at this table, it would be more than a "remembrance", but be a "participation" in Christ

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