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**Watch Out!**

**1 Corinthians 9:24-10:13**

Corinth was arguing that they had the right to eat food that had been offered to an idol. They thought it was no one else’s business what they did, that they could handle the temptation of idolatry, and that God wouldn’t care since idols weren’t real. Paul contradicts all three lines of thinking, and in this passage we see him confront the second argument: I can take it. Paul warns that we are far more susceptible to temptation than we think are, and that the one who thinks they stand strong had better watch out.

***Call to Personal Discipline (9:24-27)***

Paul’s warning begins with his own personal and example and the example of professional athletes that the Corinthians were used to seeing.

**Paul here uses the imagery of a runner and a boxer preparing to compete. What does Paul have in common with elite level athletes? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**In what ways does Paul think the Corinthians had not been following his example or the example of an elite athlete?**

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***The privileges of Israel (1 Corinthians 10:1-4)***

Next, Paul lists out the advantages that Israel had when they wandered in the desert. God gave them some pretty incredible blessings that many of us would have loved to experienced!

**What spiritual privileges did Israel enjoy during their wilderness wandering? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**What should have been the result of tremendous blessings?**

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***The rebellion of Israel (10:5-10)***

Despite the incredible spiritual blessings of Israel, God was angry with most of them and they were punished severely for rebellion. Paul here gives a brief history lesson on what happens when God’s people had previously decided to mess around with idolatry.

**What are the five ways that Israel displeased God?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Why do you think Israel repeatedly made these types of mistakes?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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***The principle of humility (10:11-13)***

In this last section, Paul concludes with a warning that the Corinthians needed to pay attention to this example. Anyone who can look at the failure of Israel ought to humbly recognize their own weakness and run from temptation while trusting God’s grace rather than proudly thinking they can take it.

**What is Paul’s warning as a result of the example of Israel? What did this mean for Corinth? What does it mean for us?**

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**What hope does Paul conclude this chapter with? How does this contrast with his warning?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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