

MESSAGE GUIDE

REBOOT: “Learning From the Mistakes of Others”

1 Corinthians 10

July 22, 2018



CONNECT

- Describe a time you learned a lesson from someone else’s mistake.

STUDY

Our passage for this week’s message was 1 Corinthians 10. The topic was Paul’s final word on the issue of wisely handling Christian liberty. In chapter 8, Paul brought up the topic generally. In chapter 9, he used himself as example of how he sought to practice wisdom and self-control in regard to freedoms. Finally, in chapter 10 Paul employed the not-so-impressive history of Israel, a nation that revealed (several times) how they ended up using their freedom in destructive ways.

- Read verses 1-4. What point is Paul trying to make about Israel in these verses? What does verse 5 say, and how does it connect to verses 1-4?
- What specific examples of Israel’s failings does Paul use in verses 7-10? Why were these failings so detrimental to the spiritual well-being of Israel?
- Verses 6 and 10 describe how Israel’s failings can serve as our teachers. What does Paul write in these two verses and what do they mean?
- Look at verses 23-24. In your own words, what point is Paul trying to make in these two verses? Why is what he teaches important to an overall understanding of how to wisely deal with our freedoms?

- After teaching on the topic of freedoms for three chapters, Paul gives some super practical advice on the issue of buying or eating meat sacrificed to idols. What does he write? Why is it so practical?

- Verses 31-33 are Paul’s last words on the topic of handling our freedoms well. What wisdom does he offer his readers (and us!)

APPLY

- Can you think of a time when you were free to do something as a Christian, but gave up that freedom out of respect/concern for how it would affect another believer?
- Thinking back to Israel’s mistakes, how was it that they messed up their freedom so badly? (Remember, they had been rescued out of slavery in Egypt.) What types of things were they tripping over? What kinds of things might trip up a Christian in our day and age?
- What “tools” do we have that help us wisely navigate when to enjoy our freedoms and when to set them aside for the benefit of others? In other words, are we left to ourselves to try and figure things out, or are there some resources available to us that we may choose wisely?
- If someone asked you the “big picture” point of Paul’s teaching through chapters 8-10, what would you say in one or two sentences?