

PRAYER MEETING

"EXAMPLES AND WARNINGS"**Introduction**

1. The Bible has examples and warnings.
2. Especially as we see O.T. Israel
3. So Paul states: v.1, 6, 11.

DOCTRINE: Israel is given to be an example and a warning to us as N.T. believers.

1. THE O.T. PEOPLE OF GOD WERE PRIVILEGED

- 1) They were "under the cloud": v.1 (Explain)
- 2) They "all passed through the sea"
- 3) Were "all baptized unto Moses"
- 4) Had "spiritual" food
- 5) Were favoured by Christ, the "Rock"

OBSERVE: They were the visible people of God in that period of history. Their exodus and pilgrimage were a picture of ours:

- (i) a deliverance
- (ii) a journey of 40 years
- (iii) a promise of ultimate rest

APPLICATION: Let us read the O.T. carefully – it is full of lessons for the believer.

2. ISRAEL REPEATEDLY DISPLEASED GOD: v.5

- 1) They did not live up to their privileges.
- 2) We see this in Exodus, Numbers, Psalms:
 - (i) Korah's rebellion
 - (ii) the repeated failure to trust God and their faint-hearted desire to turn back.

APPLICATION: They were not good at trusting God – the question is: Are we?

OBSERVE: Paul is saying that Israel is to us a warning in various ways.

3. THERE ARE EVILS AND TEMPTATIONS WHICH AS CHRISTIANS WE NEED TO AVOID

- 1) **v.6:** Not to lust after evil things
- 2) **v.7:** Idolatry – the Golden Calf
APPLICATION: For us this means declining from the purity of the gospel.
- 3) **v.7:** "Sit down to eat...rose up to play".
APPLICATION: An easy style of religion is popular with many.
- 4) **v.9:** Tempting Christ and being punished with serpents.
ILLUSTRATION: the brazen serpent.
- 5) **v.10:** Murmuring and complaining.
APPLICATION: This is very much a modern sin.

CONCLUSION

Serious, careful, conscientious Christianity is not popular. But it is obviously what God requires. If we love God, it is not too hard to strive to keep His ways with diligence. This is the religion of our forefathers in the faith (see Hebrews 11).

PSALM**78: 1 – 5****78: 14 – 20****78: 36 – 39**