

The Golden Center of this Text

- **Verse 12** - Take heed
- **Verse 13** - Take the escape
- **Verse 14** - Take Christ and nothing else

Verse 1 – An Effective Usage of Litotes

- **Litotes:** a figure of speech and form of irony in which understatement is used to emphasize a point by stating a negative to further affirm a positive, often incorporating double negatives for effect.
- **Figure:** “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel*” (**Romans 1:16a**)
 - Meaning, “*I’m fearless to proclaim the gospel*”
- **Figure:** “*For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers*”
 - Meaning, “*Therefore, I want to ensure you remember, brothers*”

Verses 1 – 6 - These Things Took Place as Examples for Us

- **Verses 1 – 4**, the word “all” is repeated five times
 - **Verse 5**, “*Nevertheless, with most*”
 - Again, this is an understatement because only Joshua and Caleb made it

Verses 7 – 11 – Four Fatal Sins We Must Avoid at All Costs

1. **Idolatry (verse 7)**
2. **Sexual Immorality (verse 8)**
3. **Testing the Lord (verse 9)**
4. **Grumbling (verse 10)**

Verse 7 – Idolatry

Exodus 32:3 - 6

3 So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron.

4 And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”

5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD.”

6 And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

Verse 8 – Sexual Immorality

Numbers 25:1 – 3, 9

1 While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab.

2 These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.

3 So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

9 Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.



Shaped by the Gospel Series – A Warning to the Free

Verse 9 – Testing the Lord

Numbers 21:6 - 9

6 Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

7 And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

8 And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.”

9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Verse 10 – Grumbling

Numbers 16:41 – 45, 49

41 But on the next day all the congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and against Aaron, saying, “You have killed the people of the LORD.”

42 And when the congregation had assembled against Moses and against Aaron, they turned toward the tent of meeting. And behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

43 And Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting,

44 and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

45 “Get away from the midst of this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.” And they fell on their faces.

49 Now those who died in the plague were 14,700, besides those who died in the affair of Korah.

Verse 13 – Four Faithful Promises for Tempted Christians

1. Your temptations are not unique
2. God is faithful
3. He will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able
4. He will always provide a way out

Verses 15 – 22 – Bringing the History Lessons to Present Applications

- **Verse 16** – In the observance of communion, by the cup and bread we share, we are participating with the blood and body of the Lord Jesus.
- **Verse 18** - The Greek word translated “participants” here and in verse 20, is the same word (*koinonia*) for “participation” in verse 16.
 - It can also be translated as fellowship, sharing, or communion.
- Is it appropriate for those who now enjoy the table of Christ to also enjoy the tables of idols?
 - Remember, a light attitude regarding this was why most of a generation died.
- **Verse 20** - Though the food offered to idols is *nothing*, and though the idols themselves are *nothing*, the demons behind them are *something*.
- **Verse 22** – Is it proper for us who are so “spiritually mature” and “free in Christ” to think so lightly of what provokes the Lord to jealousy?
 - Are we stronger or wiser than him?

