

We're Accountable For Our Sins, Even If We're Tricked

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **1 Cor. 10:11** Paul warns us not to make the same mistakes as Israel

- a few weeks ago we studied this passage as it relates to the example of Israel's idolatry with a golden calf while Moses was on a mountain receiving the Ten Commandments

- this lesson examines the next example (vs. 8) and we learn **we're accountable for all our sins, even if we're tricked**

➤ As a child of God, you're accountable to Him for sin – *being baptized is not a "sin free" card*

- **1 Cor. 10:1-5** God was displeased with most of His children, they died in the wilderness without entering the promised land – all had the same chance, few were successful

➤ - **1 Cor. 10:6** important to train ourselves not to crave evil things

- **2 Tim. 3:16-17** train ourselves with the word of God (**Rom. 1:16**)

➤ - **1 Cor. 10:7** example of Israel and the golden calf, when Moses was upon mountain to receive Ten Commandments, committed idolatry, sinful playing, **craved evil things**, not long after seeing all miracles God did when bring them out of Egypt

- **punished for sin**, Moses destroyed the golden calf, crushed up gold on put in water, made them drink it

- as God's children, we are still accountable for sin

- be careful not to come short of God's grace (**Heb. 4:1; 12:15**)

- work out our salvation with fear and trembling (**Phil. 2:12**)

- not "once saved always saved" doctrine

- **Example: Israel's sin at Peor** – accountable for sin even if tricked
 - **1 Cor. 10:8** Paul's reference to Israel's sin at Peor – act immorally (NASV), fornication (ASV, KJ), spiritual and physical harlotry (Num. 25)
 - **example:** not to crave evil, not engage in idolatry and fornication, sin punished by God
 - **background: Balak and Balaam**
 - **Balak, king of Moab, saw what Israel had done** to other nations, as they made their way to the Promise Land, and he **formed an alliance with the Midianites** to rise up against Israel
 - **Balak offered Balaam, a prophet of God, money to curse** Israel, so they would not destroy them, as Israel had done to other nations
 - **God wouldn't allow Balaam** to curse Israel
 - **but Balaam, wanting the king's money, devised a plan by which the Moabites inticed Israel to sin,** God **punished** them for their sins and **24,000 were killed in one day**
 - **background: Israel's sin at Peor (Num. 25:1-18)**
 - **Moabites enticed the Israelite men to engage in fornication** with women (harlotry)
 - **then they got the Israelites to worship idols** – spiritual fornication
 - **God became angry and punished the Israelites,** whereby 24,000 were killed in one day
 - **then God punished the Moabites and Balaam**
- - **R. Num. 25:18a** Israel was deceived with tricks, but still held accountable – **punished** for sin, and had to **repent**
 - **illus.: wiles of the devil,** deception of false teachers, lust of sin
 - **even if we're tricked** into sin, we are **equally as guilty of sin, must repent, punished**
- - **Num. 25:1** the trick was **enticement with sexual sin** – harlotry with daughters
 - **illus.: false teachers use sexual lusts** to deceive (**trick**) people (**2 Pet. 2**) – **condone sexual sin**
 - **illus.: false churches condone unlawful marriage, fornication, homosexuality, pedophilia to trick people**
 - **Satan, roaring lion** seeking people to devour, **uses other people to deceive us (1 Pet. 5:8)**
 - **illus.: Eve convinced Adam to sin,** though he was not deceived by Satan himself
 - **illus.: “the devil made me do it”** isn't an excuse – not excuse the sin
- - **Num. 25:2** the Moabites **progressed** from **trickery with sexual sin to sinful worship** (idolatry)
 - **illus.: some false religions get people drunk** (provide liquor), and **validate their sinful sexual desires,** to get them to **join their religion**
 - **Satan, and people who deceive us, use physical sin to progressively lead people into false religions**
 - **illus. saying: give Satan an inch today,** he'll take a mile tomorrow
 - **illus. saying: a little sin leads to a lot of sin** – people can never get enough sin – like drugs and alcohol
- - **Num. 25:3-5** Israel punished for their sin, even though they we're **tricked** (deceived)
 - **God punishes us for our sin as His children,** even if we're tricked and deceived
 - **therefore, important:**
 - **elders,** watch over flock
 - **warning and admonishing** each other
 - **prayer,** staying alert in it (**Eph. 6:18**) – **illus.: Jesus, apostles** in garden, watch and pray with Him
 - **Bible study,** learning it for ourselves (**1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Pet. 3:16**)

Example: Israel, sin / tricked / progressed physical to spiritual / punished even though tricked

- - **Num. 25:6-9 Phinehas was jealous with God's jealousy, and God stopped the plague**
 - story: Zimri brought a Midianite woman home to his relatives, implication to commit fornication
 - brought her in the sight of the Israelites, while many were weeping at the doorway to the tent of meeting, because of the plague and possibly because of their sin
 - Phinehas got a spear, went into the tent, killed both Zimri and the woman
 - the plague stopped — 24,00 had died
 - **Num. 25:10-12 we must have the jealousy of God, to be pleasing to Him** – have same feelings about sin as God
 - **fight with the word today**, not spears (**Eph. 6:17**)
 - with the jealousy of God, we **keep sin out of our lives**, and help others obey – evangelism
 - with the jealousy of God, we **keep sin out of our families** – children, training and admonition
 - with the jealousy of God, we **keep sin out of the church**, exercise church discipline
 - with the jealousy of God, we **stand against sin in our communities**

- - **Num. 25:16-18 God commands Moses to be hostile toward the Midianites**
 - **Num. 31:7-18 people who deceived Israel were severely punished**
 - **punishment of evil doers, false teachers**
 - **stay away from evil people**
 - **some Midianites** were in the wrong place at the wrong time, killed (children)
 - **today**, some people are punished (hurt, killed) just because with the wrong people
 - **stay around the right people**
 - **2 Tim. 2:22 flee** youthful lusts, **pursue** righteousness and faith and love and peace, with those **who call on the Lord from a pure heart**
 - **Rev. 2:14-17 people who are in churches that are like Balaam, deceiving and tricking** folks with false doctrines, will be **severely punished**
 - **make sure:**
 - **not been tricked and deceived with false doctrine**
 - **in the Lord's church**, the right church, or **punished for eternity**
 - **i.e., make sure obeying God's word** – study it yourself - know it - obey it

Summary / Inv.

- **we're accountable for our sins, even if we're tricked and deceived** – Adam & Eve
 - **make sure we know the truth, and we're obeying it**
 - **make sure no one deceives us or tricks us, with false doctrine, or by enticing us with sin**

- **inv.:** Jesus shed His blood so we wouldn't have to undergo eternal punishment, obey, baptized for remission of sins, washed way in His blood