

“Take Heed Lest You Fall!”

by Wayne Goff

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12).

The **Kansas City Chiefs 2021** are another example of those who did not “*take heed*” to the possibility of failure. They lost Super Bowl 2021 because of a poor offensive line. They fixed that problem this past year and thought they were ready to go! The players were bragging about going **undefeated** before the season began — and then started off the year **3-4!** Everyone wondered what would happen to this talented team, but I could only think of Paul’s warning to the Corinthians. (That’s how a preacher’s mind works.)

The Chiefs were in a bit of a panic, and the fans definitely were. But with some improved coaching, a new determination by the players, and hard work, the team finished the regular season **9-1!** Wow! What a change!

In 1 Corinthians, Paul is teaching the Corinthians a valuable lesson about **assuming too much**. His example is Israel coming out of Egyptian bondage. These freed captives had *everything* going for them — baptized in the Red Sea, ate the spiritual food of manna, drank of the spiritual Rock (Christ), and had God working for them in every needful way (**vv. 1-4**). *How could they possibly fail?*

But fail they did, and as Paul stated “*But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness*” (**v. 5**). So what happened to them? They walked by *sight* and not by *faith*. They lusted after evil things. They took their freedom for granted. They were destroyed in the wilderness, never to see the Promised Land (**vv. 6-10**). So why tell all of this to the Corinthian Christians?! “*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come*” (**v. 11**). The same principle applies to us today. **Don’t assume** you’re going to heaven just because you have obeyed the Gospel and are a Christian. Be faithful unto death (**Rev. 2:10**). *Continue* to walk the walk of a child of God (**Eph. 4:1**). Don’t grow weary of doing good (**Gal. 6:9**). And for heaven’s sake, don’t get caught up in the sinful lusts of the world (**1 Cor. 10:7-10**). Otherwise, you might wind up worse than the Chiefs did this year.

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