

Paul tells us that he mentions these things for our instruction, and that those of us who think we stand should take heed and pay attention to these negative examples lest we also depart from the living God and move toward idolatry.

In the second segment of our study we noted that five kinds of sinful desire are alluded to in our text passage, all of which grow out of failure to maintain vital trust in God, and all of which display dissatisfaction with God's character and will. These desires bridge the centuries from the Israelites to the Corinthian believers, and from the Corinthian believers to us today.

What are these five kinds of desire?

(1) First, there is the desire to gratify our sinful appetites

(2) Second, there is the desire to make God tangible and substantial and physically real

(3) Third, there is the desire to break through the limits God has set for human conduct

(4) Fourth, there is the desire for relief from the difficulties and hardships of life

(5) Fifth, there is the desire for exemption from all struggle and conflict with dangerous enemies

We then took up the first desire -- the desire to gratify our sinful appetites -- and discovered that the Israelites despised the manna God provided for them, and wanted to return to slavery in Egypt, where they had enjoyed a more varied